PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

SIXTY-FOURTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

OF THE

Conn. Medical Society,

MAY, 1857,

WITH A LIST OF MEMBERS.

HARTFORD.
PRESS OF CASE, TIFFANY AND COMPANY.
M.DCCC.LVII.

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Officers of the Society.

BENJAMIN H. CATLIN, M. D., President.
ASHBEL WOODWARD, M. D., Vice-President.
GEORGE O. SUMNER, M. D., Treasurer.
JOSIAH G. BECKWITH, M. D., Secretary.

Standing Committees.

Committee of Examination.

BENJAMIN H. CATLIN, M. D., *ex-officio.*
A. T. DOUGLASS, M. D.
CHARLES WOODWARD, M. D.
P. G. ROCKWELL, M. D.
BENJAMIN D. DEAN, M. D.
JAMES WELCH, M. D.

Committee to nominate Physician to the Retreat for the Insane.

ISAAC G. PORTER, M. D.
DAVID CRARY, M. D.
C. B. BROMLEY, M. D.
N. B. IVES, M. D.
GEORGE BLACKMAN, M. D.

Committee to nominate Professors in the Medical Institution of Yale College.

R. M. FOWLER, M. D.
WILLIAM N. CLARK, M. D.
ROBERT HUBBARD, M. D.
L. N. BEARDSLEY, M. D.
JOHN HILL, Jr., M. D.

Standing Committee to confer with State Librarian on Registration.

E. K. HUNT, M. D.
J. G. BECKWITH, M. D.
S. G. HUBBARD, M. D.

PROCEEDINGS.

THE Annual Convention of the President and Fellows, of the Connecticut Medical Society, was held in the city of Hartford, May 27, 1857.

The President called the Convention to order, when the certificates of the election of Fellows were read by the Secretary, and referred to a committee consisting of Drs. Hutchinson, Gillette and Welch, who reported the following list of

FELLOWS.

HARTFORD COUNTY.

J. F. Wells, M. D., Hartford.
R. Fox, M. D., Wethersfield.
H. C. Gillette, M. D., South Windsor.
R. W. Griswold, M. D., Rocky Hill.
A. Morrison, M. D., Windsor.

NEW HAVEN COUNTY.

N. B. Ives, M. D., New Haven.
P. A. Jewett, M. D., New Haven.
Andrew Castle, M. D., Woodbridge.
John Nicoll, M. D., New Haven.
W. L. Lay, M. D., Branford.

NEW LONDON COUNTY.

Isaac G. Porter, M. D., New London.*
George E. Palmer, M. D., Stonington.
Benj. D. Dean, M. D., Greenville.
Alonzo Fuller, M. D., Greeneville.
Melancthon Storrs, M. D., Colchester.

WINDHAM COUNTY.

Hiram Holt, M. D., Pomfret.
Edwin A. Hill, M. D., East Killingly.
John Hill, Jr., M. D., Willimantic.
*Lewis E. Dixon, M. D., Moosup.
Thos. W. Perry, M. D., Putnam.

FAIRFIELD COUNTY.

*J. McLean, M. D., Norwalk.
Geo. Blackman, M. D., Westport.
*Moses B. Pardee, M. D., So. Norwalk.
*Rufus Blakeman, M. D., Greenfield.
Geo. Dyer, M. D., Trumbull.

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*Absent.

LITCHFIELD COUNTY.

H. M. Knight, M. D., Lakeville.
Wm. Deming, Jr., M. D., Litchfield.
Ralph Deming, M. D., Sharon.
D. E. Bostwick, M. D., Litchfield.
James Welch, M. D., West Winsted.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY.

Ira Hutchinson, M. D., Cromwell.
Geo. W. Burke, M. D., Middletown.
*G. C. H. Gilbert, M. D., Portland.

TOLLAND COUNTY.

Alden Skinner, M. D., Rockville.
*Henry S. Dean, M. D., So. Coventry.
*S. F. Pomery, M. D., Staffordville.

Communications were then read from the Hartford Hospital Society, inviting the Convention to witness the laying of the corner stone of the new Hospital, in said city, at four o'clock, P. M., this day, and also from the Hartford City Medical Society, inviting the Convention to attend a meeting of the Society at half past seven o'clock, this evening, which were read and accepted by the Convention.

The President, Dr. Catlin, then read his annual address,

When Dr. Woodward moved that a vote of thanks be tendered to Dr. Catlin for his able and interesting address, and that he be requested to furnish a copy of the same to the Secretary, for publication with the proceedings of this Convention; adopted unanimously. After which Drs. J. Welch and Nicoll were appointed Tellers, and an informal ballott had for the several offices to be filled. The Convention then proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year, when the following gentlemen were duly re-elected, viz.:

BENJAMIN H. CATLIN, M. D., PRESIDENT.
ASHBEL WOODWARD, M. D., VICE PRESIDENT.
GEORGE O. SUMNER, M. D., TREASURER.
JOSIAH G. BECKWITH, M. D., SECRETARY.

The President then appointed the following gentlemen a Committee on the unfinished business of the last year, viz.: Drs. Jewett, B. D. Dean, J. Hill, Jr.

The Committee reported that they could find none; report accepted and Committee discharged.

Communications being in order, were then received from Litchfield

*Absent.

Co. Medical Society, being resolutions adopted at the county meeting last held, on the subject of Idiocy.

From Hartford Co. Medical Society, being the Sanitary reports received by them from some of the towns in said county on said subject; also, a dissertation read before said Society by P. M. Hastings, M. D., and the resolutions adopted by the Society on the subject of Registration.

On motion of Dr. Ralph Deming,

The Sanitary reports from Hartford County were referred to a Committee of one from a county.

On motion of Dr. Jewett,

The resolutions on Registration were referred to a committee of three, to report thereon.

Also, the resolutions of Litchfield County Medical Society on Idiocy, to a committee of three.

Also, that the dissertation of Dr. Hastings be referred to a committee of three.

The Chair appointed Drs. Knight, Ives, and Burke, said committee on the Litchfield county resolutions.

Drs. Fox, R. Deming and Burke, on Hartford county resolutions on Registration.

Drs. Ives, Welch and Pardee, on Dr. Hastings' dissertation.

On motion of Dr. Dean,

A committee of three were appointed on the address of the President.

Drs. Dean, Bostwick and Blackman were appointed such committee.

The report of the Treasurer was then read, accepted, and referred to a committee consisting of Drs. Morrison, Perry and E. A. Hill.

Abstract of Treasurer's Report.

Cash in Treasury, - - - - -		$208.53
Due from Clerks, - - -	$1,042.41	
Deduct, say two-fifths of this for bad debts, abatements, commissions, &c., -	416.96	
		625.45
Total Cash and due from Clerks, - - -		$833.98
The Society owes for debentures outstanding, -		428.37½
Leaves Balance in favor of Society, - -		$405.60½

The Auditing Committee, through their chairman, Dr. Morrison, reported that they had examined the above account of the Treasurer, and found it correct.

Report accepted and committee discharged.

Drs. Holt, Jewett, Wells, Dean, Dyer, R. Deming, and Skinner were appointed a committee on Honorary Degrees and Honorary Members.

Drs. Ives, Geo. Dyer, B. D. Dean, King, Holt and Welch, were appointed committee on gratuitous students.

Drs. Castle, Wm. Deming, Jr., and M. Storrs, on Debentures.

Drs. Gillette, Lay, Dean, J. Hill, Jr., Blackman, R. Deming, Burke, and Skinner, on Sanitary Reports of Hartford County.

The Convention then adjourned to half past two o'clock, P. M.

Half past two o'clock, P. M.

The Convention came together and were called to order.

On motion of Dr. Jewett, the election of the Standing Committees was postponed until to-morrow morning.

On motion, the report of the committee to whom was referred the resolutions of the Litchfield County Medical Society, through their chairman, Dr. H. M. Knight, was then made to the Convention. The committee reported in favor of the adoption of said resolutions and the appointment of a committee of three to memoralize the Legislature now in session in conformity to said resolutions. The report was accepted, the resolutions adopted, and the resolutions were presented to the Legislature, and referred to the Joint Select Committee on Humane Institutions.

On motion of Dr. Beckwith,

Resolved, That whenever the physicians of New Haven deem it expedient to invite the American Medical Association to meet in that city, the State Medical Society will join in the invitation.

Resolution adopted.

Drs. Griswold, Nicoll, Porter, E. A. Hill, Blackman, Wm. Deming, Jr., Burke and Pomeroy, were appointed to report the names of delegates to represent the Connecticut State Medical Society in the American Medical Association, at its next annual meeting, in 1858.

Dr. P. G. Rockwell then presented an invitation to the Convention to hold their next annual convention in the city of Waterbury.

On motion of Dr. Jewett,

The invitation was accepted, and the Convention resolved to hold the next annual convention in the city of Waterbury, on the fourth Wednesday of May, 1858.

Dr. Porter, from the Committee on Gratuitous Students, reported that Samuel C. Chapin had been returned by the Clerk of the New Haven County Medical Society, and H. Webster Jones had been returned as duly elected from Fairfield County Medical Society; that the remaining counties in the State had made no elections for gratuitous students, as appeared from the examination of their returns to the Secretary; and further, that there were no candidates recommended to the committee having the requisite qualifications; the committee recommended, therefore, that the remaining counties remain vacant the ensuing year.

Report accepted and Committee discharged.

Dr. Dean, from the Committee to whom was referred the Address of the President at the opening of the Convention, made a report which was, on motion, accepted.

The Committee reported,

That so much of said address as relates to the organization of the State Medical Society, be referred to a committee of three, who shall perfect a system of organization for the Society during the ensuing year, and report at the next annual convention.

That so much as relates to Sanitary reports and resolutions be referred to the Committee already appointed for that purpose, on the Hartford County Sanitary reports.

And, further, that that portion of the address referring to the resolutions of the American Medical Association be referred to a committee of three.

After the acceptance of the above reports, the Convention, after discussion in which it appeared that several committees had already been appointed by previous conventions, on the subject of a Constitution and By-Laws for the State Medical Society, and said Conventions had uniformly regarded any farther organization as unnecessary, and that the appointment of another committee on said subject by this Convention would not induce a succeeding Convention to adopt any plan of organization in alteration of our present system under the act of incorporation of our present Medical Society, the Convention unanim-

ously resolved not to appoint a committee to form a Constitution for the State Society as recommended by the Committee.

The Convention voted to refer that portion relating to Sanitary reports to the Committee already appointed on the Hartford County Sanitary reports, as recommended by the Committee, and also to appoint a committee of three on the resolutions of the American Medical Association, as recommended.

Dr. Holt, from the Committee on Honorary Degrees and Honorary Members, reported the name of Dr. Ralph Deming, of Sharon, for the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Medicine, Dr. Thomas C. Brinsmade, of Troy, N. Y., Dr. George Chandler, of Worcester, Mass., and Dr. Gilman Kimball, of Lowell, Mass., for Honorary Members.

The report of the Committee was accepted and the Committee discharged.

The Convention then proceeded to ballot for the gentlemen recommended by the Committee and they were unanimously elected, as follows, viz.:

Dr. Ralph Deming to be recommended by the Convention, to the President and Fellows of Yale College, for the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Medicine, and also Drs. Thomas C. Brinsmade, George Chandler and Gilman Kimball as Honorary Members of the Connecticut State Medical Society.

On motion of Dr. Jewett,

Dr. Benjamin D. Dean read his Dissertation in conformity to his appointment as Dissertator to the present Convention—the subject being the "Medical Profession."

On motion of Dr. Beckwith,

The thanks of the Convention were tendered to Dr. Dean for his able and interesting Address, and it was further resolved that a copy be requested for publication with the proceedings of the Convention.

Unanimously adopted.

Dr. Fox, from the Committee to whom was referred the resolutions of the Hartford County Medical Society on the subject of Registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths, reported,

That they consider it important that the State Medical Society should identify itself with the practical operation of the Law upon this subject, and would therefore recommend that a standing committee of three be appointed by this body to confer and co-operate with the State Librarian, as necessity may require and report to the annual sessions of this Convention.

Report accepted and resolution adopted.

Drs. John F. Wells, J. G. Porter and Thomas W. Perry were then appointed a Committee on that portion of the President's address relating to the resolutions of the American Medical Association.

The report of Dr. Griswold, from the Committee on the Nomination of Delegates to the American Medical Association, was then made, and on motion, recommitted.

Dr. Bostwick, from the Committee to nominate Dissertator to the next Convention, reported the names of Dr. Henry W. Buel, of Litchfield, a Dissertator and Dr. Rufus Baker, of Deep River, as substitute. Report accepted and the gentlemen were severally appointed as recommended.

Dr. Nicoll, from the Committee on Delegates to the American Medical Association, reported the names of

Dr. Edward W. Hatch, of West Meriden,
" A. B. Haile, of Norwich,
" Charles Woodward, of Middletown,
" Edward Brinley, of Hartford.

Report accepted, and the Gentlemen were appointed to represent the Connecticut State Medical Society at the next annual Convention of the American Medical Association, to be held at Washington, D. C., in May, 1858.

Adjourned to 8 o'clock, A. M., Thursday morning.

Thursday Morning, 8 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Convention was called to order by the President.

An informal communication having been received from Dr. Ellsworth, of Hartford, in reference to certain statements made on Wednesday, to the Convention, in regard to an infringement of medical police, by him in consultation with practitioners who were not members of the Society, and Dr. Ellsworth having denied and explained such allegations, on motion of Dr. Jewett,

Resolved, That P. W. Ellsworth be requested to furnish the Convention at the meeting in Waterbury, with an explanation of the matter referred to in his communication.

Adopted.

Resolved, That the Secretary be requested to furnish Dr. Ellsworth with a copy of the above resolution.

Adopted.

On motion of Dr. Jewett,

Resolved, That Wm. H. Sage, of Unionville, be expelled from this Society, under the by-law which makes it the duty of the Medical Society to expel any member *notoriously* in the practice of Homoepathy, Hydropathy, or any other form of quackery. Adopted. And Wm. H. Sage was expelled under said by-law from the Society.

On motion of Dr. Beckwith,

Resolved, That there be added to the Committees usually appointed by the Convention, a committee of three, to receive the reports from the several counties on deceased members, with such biographical notices as may have been read before the several county meetings during the year ending April first, in each preceding year.

Resolution adopted.

On motion of Dr. Jewett, the Convention then proceeded to fill the vacancies in the several Standing Committees, when the following gentlemen were elected to fill vacancies in the Committee of Examination, viz.:

P. G. Rockwell, M. D., to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Nathan S. Pike, M. D.; Benjamin D. Dean, M. D., and James Welch, M. D., to fill the regular vacancies in said committees.

N. B. Ives, M. D., and George Blackman, M. D., to fill the vacancies in the Committee to nominate Physician to the Retreat for the Insane.

L. N. Beardsley, and M. D., John Hill, Jr., M. D., to fill vacancies in the Committee to nominate Professors to the Medical Institution of Yale College.

E. K. Hunt, M. D., J. G. Beckwith, M. D., and S. G. Hubbard, M. D., were appointed Committee under the resolution adopted by the present Convention to appoint a Standing Committee to confer and cooperate with State Librarian on the Registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths.

On motion of Dr. Ives,

A delegation of one from a County was appointed to attend the Annual Convention of the Massachusetts Medical Society in June, 1858.

On motion of Dr. Jewett, the several Counties were instructed to nominate and report the names of the Delegates selected by them.

The following gentlemen were reported by the several Counties as selected by them, viz.:

Hartford	County,	S. B. Beresford.
New Haven	"	N. B. Ives.
New London	"	Benjamin D. Dean.
Windham	"	Hiram Holt.
Fairfield	"	George Dyer.
Litchfield	"	James Welch.
Middlesex	"	Asa H. King.
Tolland	"	Alden Skinner.

And they were accordingly appointed by the Convention.

Voted, That said delegates, in case of inability to fulfill their appointments, have power to substitute other members from their several counties to fill vacancies arising thereby.

On motion of Dr. Dean,

Resolved, That a tax of one dollar and fifty cents be laid upon the members of this Society, payable on the first day of June next.

Adopted.

On motion of Dr. Dean,

Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention be tendered to the Hartford City Medical Society, for their generous hospitality to the members of this Convention, during its present session.

Adopted.

On motion of Dr. Sumner,

Resolved, That the Clerks of the several County Medical Societies be directed to furnish the Treasurer with the names of the Fellows elected at their Annual County Meetings, as were required of them, to the Secretary, and in addition thereto.

Adopted.

Drs. Russell, Beckwith and Jewett were appointed a committee to receive reports and examine biographical notices of deceased members, for the past year.

Dr. Catlin, from the Committee of Examination, reported the proceedings of the Standing Committee of Examinations, and the names of the graduates, with the subjects of the Theses presented and defended by them at the annual commencement in January last, with the appointments made by them, &c.

Report accepted.

The Standing Committee on the nomination of Physicians to Re-

treat for the Insane and Professors to Yale College, having performed no duties, (no vacancies having occurred,) made no report.

Dr. Jewett, from the Committee on Deceased Members and Biographical Notices, reported that the notices in the hands of the Secretary, and the several reports of deaths occurring in the several counties, as reported to the Secretary by the several Clerks, be printed with the proceedings.

Report accepted.

Dr. Castle, from the Committee on Debentures, made a report which was accepted and ordered to be paid.

On motion of Dr. Jewett,

That the several county meetings be requested to investigate the subject of members of this Society consulting with irregular practitioners, and enforce the by-law in such case made and provided.

Passed.

Dr. Gillette, from the Committee on Sanitary Reports, made the following report:

That in the opinion of the committee, sanitary reports merit the continued attention of this Medical Convention, and we recommend that the Secretary of the State Medical Society be requested to publish so much of said reports now laid before this Convention, as he may deem proper, and that we recommend to the several county societies to continue such reports.

Report accepted.

And on motion of Dr. Jewett, the names of Drs. Bostwick and W. Deming, Jr., were added as committee with the Secretary, as a committee of publication on said reports.

Dr. Ives, from the committee to whom was referred the dissertation of Dr. Hastings, reported that they had examined said paper and recommended that the Secretary publish the same with the proceedings of the Convention.

Dr. Skinner moved that the dissertation be referred to the same committee with sanitary reports for examination, and be subject to their discretion whether to publish the whole or part thereof.

Previous question moved and lost.

Amendment lost.

The report was then accepted and the dissertation ordered to be printed.

On motion of Dr. Jewett,

Resolved, That there be appointed a Standing Committee on Publication, to whom all communications be referred from the several counties.

Dr. Bostwick offered an amendment that one from a county be substituted. Amendment lost.

The resolution was then adopted.

Drs. Gurdon W. Russell, Pliny A. Jewett and George W. Burke were appointed said committee.

Dr. Wells, from the committee to whom was referred the resolution of the American Medical Association, made the following report:

Resolved, That we approve and indorse the recommendations of the American Medical Convention in their transactions for 1856, p. 395, to county societies, in relation to the duty of each member to keep written notes of his practice and to report from time to time such statements as shall seem important and interesting, with a view for publication with the annual proceedings of the State Society; and in furtherance of this measure we recommend to the county societies that at their next annual meeting a committee be appointed to receive such reports as may be offered.

Resolved, That when the county societies have taken such action as shall result in the publication of reports from their members, that then this Convention will appoint a committee whose duty it shall be to present an abstract for publication in manner and form proposed in the original recommendation.

On motion of Dr. Gillette,

Resolved, That it be recommended to the several counties that a committee of one from a county be appointed to obtain the biographies of such physicians as have deceased in the State of Connecticut, of whom no biography has been published, and the medical incidents which have occurred during their lives, more particularly in reference to our ancient physicians.

Resolution adopted.

Under this resolution the following gentlemen were nominated by the several counties, and their nominations confirmed by this Convention, viz.: for

Hartford County,	Dr. Gillette.
New Haven County,	Dr. G. O. Sumner.
New London County,	Dr. Richard P. Tracy.
Windham County,	Dr. Wm. H. Cogswell.
Fairfield County,	Dr. Geo. Blackman.
Litchfield County,	Dr. D. E. Bostwick.
Middlesex County,	Dr. G. W. Burke.
Tolland County,	Dr. A. Skinner.

Ordered by the Convention, that 1000 copies of the Proceedings be published, the 500 additional copies to be distributed to the several counties.

There being no further business, the Convention then adjourned *sine die.* Attest,

JOSIAH G. BECKWITH, *Secretary.*

Members of the Society.

HONORARY MEMBERS.

JAMES JACKSON,	Boston, Mass.
*JOHN C. WARREN,	Boston, Mass.
BENJAMIN SILLIMAN,	New Haven.
*THEODORE ROMEYN BECK,	Albany, N. Y.
EDWARD DELAFIELD,	New York.
JOHN DELAMATER,	Cleveland, Ohio.
JACOB BIGELOW,	Boston, Mass.
WALTER CHANNING,	Boston, Mass.
HENRY MITCHELL,	Norwich, N. Y.
NATHAN RYNO SMITH,	Baltimore, Md.
VALENTINE MOTT,	New York.
REUBEN D. MUSSEY,	Cincinnati, Ohio.
WILLIAM TULLY,	Springfield, Mass.
RICHMOND BROWNELL,	Providence, R. I.
WILLIAM BEAUMONT,	St. Louis, Mo.
SAMUEL HENRY DICKSON,	Charleston, S. C.
STEPHEN W. WILLIAMS,	Deerfield, Mass.
WILLARD PARKER,	New York.
BENAJAH TICKNOR,	U. S. Navy.
ALDEN MARCH,	Albany, N. Y.
CHARLES A. LEE,	New York.
DAVID S. C. H. SMITH,	Providence, R. I.
HENRY D. BULKLEY,	New York.
J. MARION SYMS,	New York.
JOHN WATSON,	New York.
FRANK H. HAMILTON,	Geneva, N. Y.
ROBERT WATTS,	New York.
J. V. C. SMITH,	Boston, Mass.
O. WENDELL HOLMES,	Boston, Mass.
JOSEPH SARGENT,	Worcester, Mass.
MASON F. COGSWELL,	Albany, N. Y.
FOSTER HOOPER,	Fall River, Mass.
THOMAS C. BRINSMADE,	Troy, N. Y.
GEORGE CHANDLER,	Worcester, Mass.
GILMAN KIMBALL,	Lowell, Mass.

ORDINARY MEMBERS.

The names of those Members who are exempt from taxation by age, are in italics; the names of those who have been Presidents of the Society, are in capitals.

HARTFORD COUNTY.

S. L. CHILD, M. D., Chairman.

WILLIAM R. BROWNELL, M. D., Clerk.

HARTFORD, Henry Holmes, Samuel B. Beresford, George B. Hawley, Gurdon W. Russell, David Crary, P. W. Ellsworth, *Benjamin Rogers*, E. K. Hunt, John S. Butler, J. C. Jackson, A. W. Barrows, Thomas Miner, *H. Gridley*, William Porter, John F. Wells, William R. Brownell, P. M. Hastings, S. C. Preston, J. S. Curtis, Edward Brinley, *Stephen H. Fuller*, John Taylor, —— Clary.

BERLIN, E. Brandagee, Jr.

NEW BRITAIN, *Samuel Hart*, Roswell Hawley, E. D. Babcock, B. N. Comings, S. W. Hart.

BLOOMFIELD, Henry Gray.

BRISTOL, Joseph W. Camp, John S. Moody.

BURLINGTON, William Elton, 2d.

CANTON, *Collinsville*, Russell H. Tiffany.

EAST HARTFORD, Seth L. Child, Clarence M. Brownell, H. K. Olmstead.

EAST WINDSOR, Hiram Watson.

Broad Brook, Marcus L. Fisk.

Warehouse Point, Joseph Olmstead.

ENFIELD, J. P. Converse, A. L. Spalding, H. A. Grant.

Thompsonville, J. Bailey Beach, L. S. Pease.

FARMINGTON, *Asahel Thompson*.

Plainville, G. A. Moody.

GLASTENBURY, Clinton Bunce.

South Glastenbury, C. E. Hammond, Luman J. Andrus, Henry Gilbert.

Eastbury, Sabin Stocking.

GRANBY, *Joseph F. Jewett*.

East Granby, *Chester Hamlin*.

West Granby, Justus D. Wilcox.

North Granby, Francis F. Allen.

MANCHESTER, W. C. Williams, W. Scott.

ROCKY HILL, R. W. Griswold.

SIMSBURY, Roderick A. White.

Tariffville, George W. Sanford.

SOUTHINGTON, Julius S. Barnes, N. H. Byington, F. A. Hart.

SOUTH WINDSOR, Horace C. Gillette, H. Goodrich.

East Windsor Hill, Wm. Wood, Sidney Rockwell.

SUFFIELD, Aretus Rising.

TERRYVILLE, —— Whittemore.

West Suffield, O. W. Kellogg.

WETHERSFIELD, E. F. Cooke, A. S. Warner, R. Fox.

WEST HARTFORD, Edward Brace.

WINDSOR, *William S. Pierson*, A. Morrison, Samuel A. Wilson, D. S. Beales.

Windsor Locks, Samuel W. Skinner.

Poquonock, Oliver B. Griggs.

NEW HAVEN COUNTY.

PLINY A. JEWETT, M. D., Chairman.

JOHN NICOLL, M. D., Clerk.

NEW HAVEN, *Eli Ives, T. P. Beers, Jonathan Knight, Samuel Punderson, Caleb H. Austin, Charles Byington,* A. S. Munson, Charles Hooker, Nathan B. Ives, E. H. Bishop, J. H. Totten, Levi Ives, Pliny A. Jewett, D. L. Daggett, George O. Sumner, D. A. Tyler, Henry Bronson, E. A. Park, S. G. Hubbard, W. J. Whiting, H. W E. Mathews, C. A. Lindsley, Worthington Hooker, T. P. Beers, Jr., Samuel Lloyd, H. L. Fitch, J. K. Downs, John Nicoll, Moses C. White, Leonard J. Sanford, C. L. Ives, David E. Smith, Francis M. Holley, A. H. Churchill, Edward Bulkley, O. W. Peck.
Fair Haven, C. E. Thompson, W. M. White, *Lyman Parker*, Ezra Smith.
BETHANY, Asa C. Woodward.
BRANFORD, *Willoughby L. Lay*, H. V. C. Holcomb.
NORTH BRANFORD, Sheldon Beardsley.
CHESHIRE, A. J. Driggs, Noah B. Welton, W. C. Williams.
DERBY, C. H. Pinney.
Ansonia, H. L. Parsons.
Birmingham, Ambrose Beardsley, T. Dutton.
HAMDEN, E. D. Swift.
Humphreysville, Sheldon C. Johnson, Joshua Kendall, Thomas Stoddard.
North Haven, Roswell F. Stiliman.
GUILFORD, Joel Canfield, Alvan Talcott.
MADISON, D. M. Webb.
West Meriden, B. H. CATLIN, Edward W. Hatch, Roswell Hawley.
Yalesville, C. B. McCarty.
MILFORD, Hull Allen, L. N. Beardsley.
NAUGATUCK, J. D. Mears, Henry Pierpont.
OXFORD, Lewis Barnes.
ORANGE, H. W. Painter.
SOUTHBURY, A. B. Burritt.
South Britain, N. C. Baldwin.
WALLINGFORD, Nehemiah Banks.
WATERBURY, *M. C. Leavenworth*, G. L. Platt, John Deacon, George E. Perkins, Sturges Bulkley, P. G. Rockwell, Thomas Dougherty.
WOODBRIDGE, *Isaac Goodsell*, Andrew Castle.

NEW LONDON COUNTY.

JOSEPH COMSTOCK, M. D., Chairman.

BENJAMIN D. DEAN, M. D., Clerk.

NEW LONDON, *Dyer T. Brainard, Nathaniel S. Perkins*, James Morgan, Isaac G. Porter, William W. Miner, Seth Smith, D. P. Francis, Albert Hobron, Robert A. Manwarring.
NORWICH, *Richard P. Tracy, Erastus Osgood*, Elijah Dyer, Elisha Phinney, Edwin Bentley, Benjamin D. Dean, John P. Fuller, Alonzo Fuller, Henry W. Leach, Daniel G. Gulliver, A. B. Haile, Lewis S. Paddock.
BOZRAH, Samuel Johnson.
COLCHESTER, *Ezekiel W. Parsons, Fred'ick Morgan*, Melancthon Storrs.
EAST LYME, *John L. Smith*, Austin F. Perkins.
FRANKLIN, Ashbell Woodward.
GRISWOLD, *Jewett City*, William Soule.
GROTON, *Benjamin Durfey.*
Noank, A. T. Douglass.
LEBANON, *Joseph Comstock*, Ralph P. Greene.
LYME, *Richard Noyes.*
North Lyme, Wm. W. J. Warren.
MONTVILLE, John C. Bolles.
Uncasville, Samuel E. Maynard.
PRESTON, *Eleazer B. Downing.*
SALEM, Nathaniel Foote.
STONINGTON, *William Hyde*, George E. Palmer, William Hyde, Jr.
Mystic, Mason Manning.
Mystic Bridge, E. F. Coats, A. W. Coats.

FAIRFIELD COUNTY.

E. MIDDLEBROOK, M. D., Chairman.

H. L. W. BURRITT, M. D., Clerk.

FAIRFIELD, S. P. V. R. Ten Broeck.
Greenfield, RUFUS BLAKEMAN.
Southport, Justus Sherwood.
BRIDGEPORT, D. H. Nash, Frederick J. Judson, L. W. Burritt, *William B. Nash*, Robert Hubbard, H. N. Bennett.
BROOKFIELD, A. L. Williams.
DANBURY, *R. B. Botsford*, E. P. Bennett.
EASTON, James Baldwin.
HUNTINGTON, *James H. Shelton.*
NEW CANAAN, *Samuel S. Noyes*, Lewis Richards.
NORWALK, *John A. McLean*, Ira Gregory.
STAMFORD, N. D. Haight, Samuel Sands, Lewis Hurlburt.
STRATFORD, *William T. Shelton.*
TRUMBULL, *ELIJAH MIDDLEBROOK*, George Dyer.
WESTPORT, George Blackman, David S. Burr.

WINDHAM COUNTY.

WM. H. COGSWELL, M. D., Chairman.

JAMES B. WHITCOMB, M. D., Clerk.

BROOKLYN, James B. Whitcomb, William Woodbridge.
ASHFORD, John H. Simmons.
CANTERBURY, *Elijah Baldwin*, Joseph Palmer.
CHAPLIN, Orrin Witter.
HAMPTON, Dyer Hughes.
KILLINGLY, *Daysville*, Justin Hammond.
South Killingly, Daniel A. Hovey.
East Killingly, E. A. Hill.
West Killingly, David E. Hall, Samuel Hutchins, Stephen C. Griggs.
Putnam, Henry W. Hough, Thomas W. Perry.
PLAINFIELD, WM. H. COGSWELL.
Moosup, Lewis E. Dixon, Frank Burgess.
Plainfield Center, Charles H. Rogers.
POMFRET, Hiram Holt, Lewis Williams.
STERLING, William A. Lewis.
THOMPSON, Lowell Holbrook, John McGregor.
VOLUNTOWN, *Harvey Campbell.*
WINDHAM, *Chester Hunt*, De Witt C. Lathrop.
Willimantic, John Hill, Jr.
Scotland, Calvin B. Bromley.
WOODSTOCK, *North*, Asa Witter.
South Woodstock, *Lorenzo Marcy.*
West Woodstock, Milton Bradford.

LITCHFIELD COUNTY.

WILLIAM WOODRUFF, M. D., Chairman.

HENRY W. BUELL, M. D., Clerk.

LITCHFIELD, Josiah G. Beckwith, Geo. Seymour, D. E. Bostwick, E. Osborn, H. W. Buel, Wm. Deming, Jr.
South Farms, Garry H. Miner.
CANAAN, Ithamar H. Smith, A. A. Wright.
South Canaan, John A. Gillett.
CORNWALL, Burritt B. North.
West Cornwall, *Samuel W. Gold.*

COLEBROOK, Seth Pease.
Gaylord's Bridge, Gamaliel H. St. John.
GOSHEN, A. M. Huxley.
HARWINTON, G. B. Miller.
KENT, *Wells Beardsley.*
NEW MILFORD, *Jehiel Williams.*
Bridgewater, Horace Judson.
NORFOLK, William W. Welch, John H. Welch.
PLYMOUTH, Samuel T. Salisbury.
Plymouth Hollow, William Woodroof.
ROXBURY, Myron Downs.
SALISBURY, *Falls Village*, C. B. Maltbie.
Lakesville, Benjamin Welch, Wm. M. Knight.
NEW HARTFORD, *South*, A. E. Barber.
SHARON, Ralph Deming, —— Knight.
TORRINGTON, *Wolcottville*, *Erastus Bancroft*, J. W. Phelps.
WARREN, Jno. B. Derickson.
Woodville, Manly Peters.
WASHINGTON, R. M. Fowler.
New Preston, Sidney H. Lyman, Edward P. Lyman.
WINCHESTER, *West Winsted*, James Welch, J. W. Bidwell.
WOODBURY, Charles H. Webb.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY.

ASA M. HOLT, M. D., Chairman.

ELISHA B. NYE, M. D., Clerk.

MIDDLETOWN, Joseph Barrett, Charles Woodward, Wm. B. Casey, Elisha B. Nye, George W. Burke, Miner C. Hazen.
CHATHAM, *East Hampton*, Francis G. Edgerton.
Middle Haddam, A. B. Worthington.
CHESTER, S. W. Turner.
CLINTON, Denison H. Hubbard.
CROMWELL, Ira Hutchinson.
DURHAM, R. W. Mathewson.
EAST HADDAM, *Asa M. Holt*, *Datus Willliams.*
HADDAM, Edwin Bidwell.
PORTLAND, George O. Jarvis, G. C. H. Gilbert.
SAYBROOK, Asa H. King.
Deep River, Rufus Baker.
OLD SAYBROOK, *Essex*, Alexander H. Hough, Frederick W. Shepard.

TOLLAND COUNTY.

NORMAN BRIGHAM, M. D., Chairman.

GILBERT H. PRESTON, M. D., CLERK.

TOLLAND, *Oliver K. Isham*, Gilbert H. Preston.
BOLTON, Charles F. Sumner.
COVENTRY, *North*, *Eleazer Hunt.*
So. Coventry, T. Dimock, H. S. Dean.
ELLLINGTON, *Horatio Dow.*
HEBRON, *JOHN S. PETERS*, Orrin C. White.
MANSFIELD, *North*, *Norman Brigham*, W. H. Richardson.
South Mansfield, *Earl Swift.*
SOMERS, *Orson Wood*, Erasmus E. Hamilton.
STAFFORD, *East*, Wm. N. Clark.
Stafford West, Joshua C. Blodget.
UNION, E. Linsley.
VERNON, John B. Lewis.
Rockville, Alden Skinner.
WILLINGTON, Francis L. Dickinson.
Spaffordville, Stephen F. Pomeroy.
Stafford Springs, C. B. Newton.

SUMMARY OF ORDINARY MEMBERS FOR 1856, WITH THE DEATHS IN THE YEAR ENDING APRIL 1, 1856.

	Taxable.	Not Taxable.	Total.	Deaths.
Hartford County,	72	8	80	3
New Haven County,	70	10	80	2
New London County,	33	12	45	0
Fairfield County,	18	7	25	0
Windham County,	27	3	30	2
Litchfield County,	36	4	40	2
Middlesex County,	20	2	22	1
Tolland County,	15	7	22	0
Total,	291	53	344	10

NOTE. Former Fellows of the Connecticut Medical Society, are *permanent members* of the annual Convention, having the privilege of attending all meetings, and performing all the duties of attending members, except that of casting their votes. And all members of the Society are invited, by the By-Laws, to be present at all meetings of the Convention.

DEATHS OF MEMBERS DURING THE YEAR ENDING APRIL 1, 1857,

WITH THE AGE AND DISEASE SO FAR AS ASCERTAINED.

Hartford County,	Eli Hall, aged 73. Enlargement Prostate Gland.
" "	Sylvester Bulkley, aged 70. Peitonitis.
" "	L. North, aged 46. Congestion Brain.
New Haven "	Reynold Webb, aged 64. Diabetes.
" "	Bela Farnham, aged 86. Fever.
Windham "	Morey Burgess, aged 67. Paralysis.
" "	Nathan S. Pike, aged 40. Consumption.
Litchfield "	Ovid Plumb, aged 71. Congestion of the Lungs.
" "	Chancey Reed, aged 46. Fever.
Middlesex "	David Harrison, aged 54. Softening of the Heart.

DUTIES OF CLERKS.

To warn County Meetings.

To record the proceedings of the County Meetings.

To collect the taxes and pay the same to the Treasurer.

To transmit to the Secretary a list of the elected Fellows, and the person recommended as a candidate for a gratuitous course of lectures, immediately after the County Meetings, for publication.

To make certificates of Fellowship, to be transmitted to the Secretary, on or before the first day of the Convention.

To transmit duplicate lists of the Members of the Society, to the Secretary and Treasurer, on or before the first day of the Convention, on the penalty of five dollars for each neglect.

To transmit to the Treasurer the names of Fellows elected before Convention.

To return to the Treasurer the names of delinquent Members of the Society.

To report to the Secretary of the State Convention, on the first day of its session, the names, ages, and diseases of the members of this Society, who may have died during the year preceding the 1st of April in each year, in their several County Societies.

RULES OF ORDER.

1. Organization.
2. Certificates of Membership presented and read by the Secretary.
3. Committee on the Election of Fellows.
4. Address of President.
5. Election of Officers for ensuing year.
6. Unfinished business of previous year disposed of.
7. Reception and reference, without debate, of Communications, Resolves, &c., from the several Counties, and Members of the Convention.
8. Reading Treasurer's Report.
9. Committee to audit the same.
10. Committee on Debentures.
11. Standing Committees appointed.
12. Committee to nominate Delegates to National Convention.
13. Committee on Candidates for Gratuitous Course of Lectures.
14. Committee on Honorary Degrees and Honorary Memberships.
15. Committee to nominate Dissertator.
16. Dissertation.
17. Reports of Committees appointed on County Communications, Resolves, &c.
18. Reports of Standing Committees.
19. Reports of Committees in the order in which business was brought forward in Convention.
20. Miscellaneous business.

DISSERTATIONS READ IN CONVENTIONS.

1794. Dr. S. H. P. Lee, on Autumnal Bilious Fever.
1794. Dr. Gideon Shepherd, on the Properties of Opium.
1795. Dr. F. P. Ouviere, on the Preparations of Antimony.
1795. Dr. Thaddeus Betts, on the Different Species of Colic.
1796. Dr. F. P. Ouviere, on the Contagion of Yellow Fever.
1796. S. H. P. Lee, on Cynanche Tonsilharis.
1796. Dr. Lewis Collins, on the most eligible mode of increasing Medical Knowledge in this State.
1796. Dr. Gideon Shepherd, on the same subject.
1798. Dr. Samuel Hopkins, case of Bilious Concretion.
1798. Dr. Jared Potter, "An Essay."
1799. Dr. Thaddeus Clark, a Dissertation.
1800. Dr. Nathaniel Dwight, on Lunacy.
1804. Dr. Samuel Willard, on the Stafford Mineral Waters.
1817. Dr. W. R. Fowler, on the Deleterious Effects of Ardent Spirits.
1818. Dr. William Buel, on Ergot.
1820. Dr. Thomas Miner, on Typhus Fever.
1821. Dr. Samuel Rockwell, on Uterine Hemorrhage.
1822, Dr. William Tully, on the Yellow Fever at Middletown.
1823. Dr. Dyer T. Brainard.
4827. Dr. Samuel B. Woodward, on the Biography of the Physicians of the State.
1829. Dr. George Sumner, on Extra-uterine Conception.
1830. Dr. Charles Hooker, on Diseases of the Ear.
1835. Dr. Benjamin Welch, Jr., on the Vitality of the Blood.
1836. Dr. E. H. Bishop, Influence of Moral Emotions on Disease.
1837. Dr. Archibald Welch, on Scarlet Fever.
1838. Dr. Isaac G. Porter, on the Disease commonly denominated Spinal Irritation.
1839. Dr. Henry Bronson, on the Mental Qualifications necessary to a Physician.

1840. Dr. Richard Warner, on the Advantages of prompt and efficient practice in Acute Diseases.
1841. Dr. Amariah Brigham, on Insanity as a subject of Medical Jurisprudence.
1842. Dr. Charles Woodward, on Uterine Irritation.
1843. Dr. Pinckney W. Ellsworth, on Phlebitis.
1844. Dr. Worthington Hooker, on the Respect due to the Medical Profession, and the reasons that it is not awarded by the Community.
1845. Dr. Nathan B. Ives, on Laryngismus Stridulus.
1846. Dr. Theodore Sill, Observations on Typhus Fever.
1847. Dr. E. K. Hunt, on the Importance of a Medical Organization, and the advantages resulting from it.
1848. Dr. B. F. Barker, Remarks on some forms of Disease of the Cervix Uteri.
1849. Dr. Alvan Talcott, on Hygiene.
1850. Dr. Johnson C. Hatch, on Medical Jurisprudence.
1851. Dr. George Sumner, on the Early Physicians of Connecticut.
1853. Dr. Rufus Blakeman, Early Physicians of Fairfield County.
1853. Dr. Samusl Beach, on Popularizing Medicine.
1854. Dr. Wm. B. Casey, on Diseased Cervix Uteri.
1855. Dr. Stephen G. Hubbard, on Registration, as the basis of Sanitary Reform.
1857. Dr. Benjamin D. Dean, "The Medical Profession."

APPENDIX.

MEDICAL INSTITUTION OF YALE COLLEGE.

ANNUAL EXAMINATION, 1857.

The Board of Examiners convened on Wednesday, Jan. 14th, and continued in session two days. Present, on the part of the Connecticut Medical Society:

Benjamin H. Catlin, M. D., of Meriden, *President.*

William W. Welch, M. D., of Norfolk.

Charles Woodward, M. D., of Middletown.

A. T Douglass, M. D., of Groton.

On the part of Yale College: Profs. J. Knight, C. Hooker, H. Bronson, W. Hooker, B. Silliman, Jr., and P. A. Jewett.

Eleven candidates submitted their dissertations, and, after examination, were recommended for the Degree of Doctor in Medicine, viz.:

1. Asa Hopkins Churchill, New Haven, on "Fractures."

2. George Clary, Hartford, on "The Progress and Prospects of Medical Science."

3. Cortlandt Van Ranssalear Creed, New Haven, on "The Blood."

4. David Anson Hedges, Bridgehampton, L. I., on "Tetanus."

5. John Worthington Hooker, B. A., 1854, New Haven, the Valedictory Address.

6. Charles Roe Osborne, B. A., Hamp. and Sidney College, 1852, New York City, on "The Connection between Mind and Body in Disease."

7. Homer Lee Parsons, Branford, on "Rheumatism and Rheumatic Pericarditis."

8. Ozias Willard Peck, New Haven, on "Apoplexy."

9. Ezra Smith, Willseyville, N. Y., on "Pneumonia."

10. John Witter, North Woodstock, on "The Causes of Error in Medicine."

11. Samuel Russel Wooster, Birmingham, on "Correct Diagnosis, the True Basis of Therapeutics."

The candidates did honor to themselves and their instructors, being better prepared than those preceding, as far as our experience extends, receiving, with one or two exceptions, the unanimous vote of the board. If there was any branch in which it could be said they were deficient, it was that of Chemistry. It is feared that some students consider this only as a collateral branch, which they can neglect rather than others. If they were aware what

Chemistry has done for the advancement of medical science for the last thirty years, and what is expected from it in future, they would not neglect this important branch of their profession.

Archibald T. Douglass, M. D., of Groton, and Samuel W. Gold, M. D., of Cornwall, were appointed to give the annual addresses to the candidates in 1858 and 1859.

The President, Benjamin H. Catlin, M. D., was appointed to report the Proceedings of the Board to the President and Fellows of the Connecticut Medical Society.

The Board then adjourned to meet July 28, the Tuesday before the Commencement in Yale College.

The Commencement Exercises in the College Chapel, Thursday evening, Jan. 15, before a large and intelligent audience of ladies and gentlemen, were highly interesting.

The Valedictory Address, by Dr. John W. Hooker, of the graduating class, was unusually able and appropriate.

The Annual Address to the Candidates, by the Hon. Wm. W. Welch, M. D., of the Board of Examiners, was an interesting history of medical science, closing with an urgent appeal to the candidates to faithfulness in the profession they were about to enter. After which, the Degrees were conferred by President Woolsey, in behalf of the Board of Examiners.

B. H. CATLIN, *President.*

ADDRESS.

GENTLEMEN:

Through the indulgence of a kind Providence, we are permitted once more to assemble in our Annual Convention, to exchange those congratulations so pleasant to us, and to engage in those duties incumbent upon us as the representatives of the Connecticut Medical Society.

A by-law was adopted by this Society, at its Annual Meeting, eight years since, making it the duty of the President "to deliver an Address to the Convention, annually."

My predecessors have understood it as being their duty, only as they retired from office. Some have failed then, so that we have had only two addresses in the period of eight years named.

Being a law-abiding citizen, I intend, for the brief period I am honored with the office, to comply with the *letter* of the law, though I despair of coming up to the spirit of the requirement.

It is interesting and profitable to review the history of Medicine in this State, from its first small beginnings, irregular and unorganized, through its early and more matured organizations, to the present time, and to learn something of the Fathers of Medicine in Connecticut, their labors in this society and our profession.

For a knowledge of these facts, I would refer you to the able and interesting addresses of my predecessors, the lamented Sumner and our honored friend whom we hoped to see with us to-day, Rufus Blakeman, M. D., published with the proceedings of this society in the years 1851 and 1853. If you are not already familiar with these, I can assure you they are well worthy of your attention.

We are in the anomalous condition of a society without a written constitution; all our powers and privileges, as officers and members of the Connecticut Medical Society, being derived from an act of in-

corporation granted by the legislature of this State, and our duties and obligations are defined by this and by the by-laws and Medical Police which we have adopted in accordance with this act. It is for you to decide whether a constitution would add to our privileges, or render our society more efficient. It is not unusual for societies created by an act of incorporation, to have also a constitution.

The laws of our society, though its incorporation dates back sixty-five years, are still very brief, Those relating to the duties of the President, define them to be: To preside at the meetings of the society, appoint a portion of the committee for business, call extra meetings when necessary, and deliver an annual address, giving no directions respecting the subject or the object of the address. We are therefore left with the largest liberty in deciding upon the theme of our discourse.

It would seem to be appropriate to have one slightly analogous to the message of the Governor of the State, directing your attention to the present state of medical science and practice within our limits, pointing out, as far as practicable, the obstacles which prevent a more rapid improvement of the healing art, and suggesting, for your consideration, such measures as shall appear necessary to promote the greatest possible advancement of our beloved profession.

Our act of incorporation and by-laws give the President no special powers for acquiring information, being, in fact, more meagre in this respect than in defining his duties.

I have presumed to address circulars to the Clerks of the County Societies, requesting them to present to their county meetings the importance of having committees of inquiry appointed, which, if attended to, may another year present facts from the different parts of the State, eminently useful to the President for the preparation of his annual address.

I can only speak of those things which fall within my own sphere of observation, and give my individual opinion in regard to matters worthy of our consideration at the present time.

When we contemplate the fact that previous to the organization of the American Medical Association, many of the States and Territories had few, if any, medical societies, state, county, or municipal, we look with pride upon our own as being one of the earliest formed, and for that early period, wisely and somewhat efficiently organized. We have been so well satisfied with what our fathers have done, that we have suffered our society to become comparatively a barren organization, not yet so dry as the bones in Ezekiel's vision, or the mummies

of the Egyptian kings. It has at least the vitality of a Joice Heath. We meet in county meetings, appoint officers, possibly have a dissertation or a case of discipline, and then adjourn in haste. The Fellows meet in convention, appoint officers for the year, listen to an address, if they are so fortunate as to have one, and by that time some beginning to be anxious about their patients, their practice, or perhaps more solicitious lest some rival shall supplant them in their absence, can spend no time for the improvement of medical science. I am happy to say there are many exceptions to this course. There are many worthy members of our society, who, with a true love for science, have labored and well labored on in this noble cause, irrespective of any personal emolument or honors, with a true desire to promote the general good.

I fully concur in the sentiments expressed in the closing sentence of Dr. Sumner's address: "They, the founders of this society, are not here, but we have the comforting assurance that they did not labor in vain; and that the medical skill of our State has been greatly extended, that the mental culture of our physicians is vastly more thorough, and their moral character is essentially improved since the establishment of this society."

As the hills and mountains of our rock-bound State have towered above the broad prairies of the West, so has our professional standing been exalted above that of our brethren in many other States and Territories. But this prominence is passing from us. Through the influence of the American Medical Association, there is a reviving influence abroad, co-extensive with our broad national domain, moving "the mass of medical society to its very depths." Those who have more recently entered upon the race are outstripping the old stagers, so that unless we speedily arouse ourselves from our lethargy, we shall find our brethren in other States excelling us, as the lofty sumits of the Alleghanies rise above our liliputian hills.

It will not answer for us to be doing just what our fathers have done. There is no remaining in statu quo. Unless we advance we retrograde, relatively if not positively.

There is a principle of miserable conservatism, or more properly, if not classically, called old fogyism, prevalent in our profession. A disposition to maintain our medical organization in the form handed down to us by our fathers as one too sacred to be amended. If you will look over the records of our society for the last twelve years, you will find several movements for changes in our medical organization, the objects of which were to create a more general interest throughout

the profession, in the objects and pursuits of the society. You will find, also, that they have almost uniformly been voted down. Some of them are so important that I should recommend them for your consideration had not sentence already been pronounced against them. We are not all perfectionists. Let us, then, look with favor upon suggestions made by any member for improvement in our medical organization. If they appear crude and objectionable, let them be thoroughly discussed and amended from year to year, if necessary, till they are so far perfected that a majority shall be convinced they are real improvements.

A few of the sons of Connecticut have made a liberal sacrifice of time and money to attend upon the meetings of the National Association. Some have been active on committees, and two or three articles have been written by different individuals for publication in the transactions, but we have not, as members of the faculty in this state, taken that high stand which might have been expected of us, considering our previous history. It is not too late to remedy the evil. We must arouse ourselves with all the energy in our power, for the reputation of our profession, in this State, depends upon our decision and action.

I regret to say that there is, in many places, a great reluctance on the part of members in assuming any responsibility, or in engaging in any labor, on committee or as individuals, in collecting and recording facts and statistics necessary to advance medical science. If a subject is brought forward for investigation, those appointed to perform the labor do, in too many instances, ask to be excused, or if accepting, will neglect to perform the labor requisite to accomplish the end desired.

Every member of this society will doubtless claim that he is in favor of every real improvement, and is ready to hail with delight anything which even promises to advance the healing art. But I appeal to your experience, gentlemen, if it is not a fact that every reformer, every one who proposes a radical change in the treatment of any disease, or any great change in long established usages and practices, has for a time, at least, to encounter an unnecessary amount of abuse before his plan or improvement, though worthy of our highest regards, can be established. It is right and reasonable, yea, more, it is our imperative duty, to examine, with scrupulous care, every change proposed in a practice which has had, for a long time, the sanction of our profession; but let us look with favor upon every proposed improvement or discovery till it is proved to be a fallacy.

An inordinate desire to do a large and lucrative business, rather than to do what is done in the best possible manner, is a serious hindrance to medical improvement. We ought to consider it an obligation binding upon us not to assume greater responsibilities than we are able to meet with fidelity and ability. Every case should be attentively and thoroughly investigated, according to its importance, before seeking new cases.

In many towns throughout our State there is a spirit of rivalry and petty jealousy, between brethren, which is greatly annoying and disgraceful to those engaged in it, and a bar to all improvement. You will too frequently find a physician of some ability showing an amount of shrewdness and tact in supplanting a rival, or gaining a temporary advantage over a neighbor, which if rightly directed, would place him high in the ranks of the profession. It is better to suffer a little from such a man than to enter into a contest with him.

I am satisfied there is much less of this spirit in the profession than formerly. I rejoice to say there are many towns, villages, and cities, where there is a very pleasant and friendly feeling between medical brethren, each having regard to the reputation of his brother, not unmindful of the injunction of the apostle, "Let each esteem others better than themselves;" "Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others."

The system of medical police adopted by this society, October, 1817, and the code of medical ethics of the American Medical Association, adopted and published by this society in 1854, are founded upon just and equitable principles, conducive alike to the interest of each member of the profession and the community. These regulations are so *reasonable*, as well as just, that every one should enter fully into the spirit of these requirements. But we regret to say they are too often violated, and occasionally by those of whom we might expect better things. Now and then one who has been honored by appointment to important offices in this society, will consult with an irregular, or what is equally a violation of the spirit of the law, visit his patient, make a prescription, and leave the patient in his hand. I think you would most effectually put down this form of quackery by a by-law excluding such persons from office in this society.

Our profession suffers for the want of attention on the part of many members to the proper regulation of the diet and exercise of their patients. Owing to this, many a chronic case, which is almost cured, the disease perhaps eradicated, so that if the patient was kept

upon a well regulated system of diet and exercise, restoration to comfortable, if not perfect health, would be the happy result; yet for the want of such a course, goes into the hands of irregular practitioners, who have the credit of the cure.

I am perfectly aware, from painful experience, of the difficulty of carrying out this plan in private practice; but we must do what we can, and cases that cannot be managed should be sent to some hospital, or what would be better in many cases, to some private institution, were we fortunate to have one under the care of some brother qualified and prepared to manage such patients.

What benefit is derived from treatment in Hydropathic, Motopathic, and other partial systems, is due almost exclusively to a regular plan of diet and exercise.

Passing through the south part of this city (Hartford) a few years since, I saw before me what appeared in the distance to be a private mansion, but having a sign over its principal entrance, which as I approached nearer, I found to be, "Home for the Sick."

Upon one, who had practiced many years in a thriving village, where great numbers of youths of both sexes coming in, obtaining lodging as they could, some crowded into small attic chambers, among strangers, destitute of all those conveniences or comforts so important in sickness, such a sign made a deep impression—Home for the Sick! How many young men, and young women too, have suffered, and perhaps died, for the want of a home when sick? How many single persons of both sexes, and of all ages, though in their native towns, have suffered, and are suffering, because they have no home when sick?

I understand the citizens of Hartford have raised their "Home for the Sick" to the dignity of a Hospital. I would advise them to retain the original name, for many persons have strong prejudice against a hospital, unreasonable, yet real, that would not exist towards a "Home for the Sick."

Our records will show that such hospitals as we have in Connecticut, the Retreat for the Insane, and Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb, owe their existence in no small degree to this society, or members of our profession. If we are to have homes for the sick established, as they should be, in all our principal towns and villages, you, gentlemen, and your associates, must commence and carry on the work. The funds must come from benevolent individuals, from state and town authorities, but the real work must be performed by our profession.

I have pointed out a few of the obstacles which impede the progress of the society and prevent the greatest improvement of individual members.

I have also in connection with the statement of the difficulties, mentioned incidentally some of the remedies. It remains to inquire what further action is necessary to remove these evils and promote the greatest possible advancement of the society.

Were I merely to call your attention to a dissertation delivered before this society ten years since, by our esteemed friend, E. K. Hunt, M. D., of this city, and secure your earnest and undivided efforts to adopt and carry out in full all the important suggestions therein contained, I should have done much towards removing the obstacles I have named, and place our society in that high and commanding position it should occupy. I have been surprized that so little attention has been paid to the important matters contained in his dissertation.

Those urging the importance of raising the standard of medical education, have received attention in the National Association, and those relating to biographical notices of deceased physicians, have within the last few years received attention in our society. The sanitary reports from Hartford County, the last two years, are in accordance with the ideas suggested in the dissertation.

In the Transaction of the American Medical Association for 1856, nine years after the publication of the dissertation, there is a report from the committee on plans and organization for state and county societies, (page 395) in which you will find the same ideas clothed in very similar language, urging the importance of close observation by individual members, of the greatest number of definite and authorized facts, to be received and collated by a committee appointed for that purpose. These to be subjects for discussion at the County meeting, amended if necessary, and then forwarded to the State Society. It is urged by both that the reading and discussion of these reports will add greatly to the interest of our County and State meetings, now so dry and formal.

The following are the third and sixth resolutions presented by the above named committee, which I transcribe for your consideration :

"*Resolved*, That this association also earnestly recommend to local or county societies to incorporate into their constitution or by-laws, provisions for making it the duty of each of their members to keep at least a brief record of all cases occurring in his practice, depending upon endemic or general causes, and report at least annually to a

committee of the society to which he belongs, the number or per centage of different diseases occurring each month, together with the particular type of each disease, the chief modifying circumstances under which it occurred, the general plan of treatment, and the result of the cases; and also that these societies make provision for the collection of such committee, whose duty it shall be to receive and collate such reports, arranging them in due form, and adding such remarks as may assist to their proper understanding, and to transmit them annually thus arranged to a committee of the State Society, to which the local or county shall be auxiliary; and this association further recommends that the State Societies make provision in their constitution or by-laws, for the appointment of a committee, whose duty it shall be to receive such reports from the local or county societies, to again arrange with other reports, from similar societies, placing them in a condensed or tabulated form, and report them annually, with proper remarks, to a committee of this association, to which the State Societies are recommended to become auxiliary."

"*Resolved*, That in the opinion of this association, it would tend to the production of papers of greater merit, and increase the interest of the meetings of local or county societies, if those papers possessing peculiar merit were referred to the State Society as mark of honor and to be incorporated into their proceedings if deemed worthy."

It is for you, gentlemen, to decide whether it is expedient at this time to recommend to the members of this society, through the county societies, the observation and collection of such facts. The days of theorizing and speculation in medicine, we trust, are past. We can expect to improve the science of medicine only upon the inductive method—the collection of the largest number of facts. Those that can and should be collected by each and every member of this society in the various localities where they reside, among a population living and dying under all the diversified circumstances which exist in our communities, would be of the most important character; altogether more valuable than those occurring among such a class of persons as are usually found in large hospitals.

The plan carried out will require great labor; so great that we cannot expect to do all we wish at once. It will be a work of years to perfect the system, but this should not deter us from commencing the enterprize. Those advanced in life may never acquire the habit of recording their observation, but to our younger brethren we look with hope.

It is very much to be regretted that the plan of sanitary reports,

so auspiciously commenced in Hartford county, and earnestly recommended to each county of the State, by this society at their convention two years since, have received so little attention from individual members or from county societies. We trust these recommendations will not long remain unheeded.

All our county societies, in order to carry out the plan proposed, will find it necessary to have two, and probably more frequent meetings, each year. I am happy to learn that some counties have recently decided upon more frequent meetings.

Through the influence of members of our profession we fortunately have in Connecticut a registry law, which may, in its yet incipient and imperfect state, require your constant watchfulness and care, till it is more fully perfected and established.

I would recommend to your notice the efforts now being made for the establishment in our state of an institution for the improvement of that unfortunate class, in all communities, the imbecile and idiotic, as eminently worthy of your attention. It will be in keeping with the previous history of our profession, in regard to kindred institutions, to give this enterprise your hearty and efficient support; as I have before observed, our mutual organization might be improved.

If you were to examine our system with the eye and experience of a judicious surgeon, you would doubtless find some ulcers requiring the free application of the caustic; some useless or offensive members that need the amputating knife. Still you will find enough that can now be done to improve our body corporate as at present organized. We now have the most important organs, the bones, the cartilage, the tendon, the muscle, and a weak circulation in the heart and large arteries. If we can this day send out from this center of action a fresh flow of warm arterial blood, coursing through the large arteries, to the extremities, rousing up to intense action every minute capillary, there will be a happy return to the cerebral organ, giving them increased energy and vitality. If we can start on its course from the brain a full current of nervous influence through the sympathetic nerves, thrilling through every minute nervous filament, we shall soon see the whole system, now sluggish and torpid, awakened to a new life, producing results exceeding our most sanguine expectations. We must go to work with all our energies if we would maintain our reputation, or make advances in accordance with the spirit of the age in which we live. We must be satisfied to see a less number of patients, that we may observe better and record the observation made. We must be willing to labor as individuals, and on committees, and make

thorough work in the reform. Such a course will eradicate all petty jealousies and rivalries between brethren, leaving only a fair and honorable competition for high distinction in the profession.

Gentlemen, I trust you have come here prepared to remain till the labor necessary to be accomplished at this Convention, is accomplished, even though it should require the remainder of the week. And when you have done this, you are to remember that your duties as fellows do not terminate with the close of this Convention. You are chosen for the year, liable to be called together again by your President, should the interest of the profession require your attention. You may have important duties to perform in the discipline of unworthy members.

As you return to the hills and valleys of Connecticut to resume your ordinary duties, go feeling that the interests of the profession in your several counties are in an important sense committed to your care. Attend your county meetings to explain and advocate such measures as you shall here recommend for their action, and attend to all the duties incumbent on you as fellows, till others are elected to fill your places.

In conclusion, brethren, permit me to say, we are constantly reminded by the Providence of God, that our time for labor here is short. The returns of the clerks of the several counties, to be made this day, will show that a number, not small, have fallen in our ranks during the year now past.

Three of these require particular notice at this time, their names being on our most important Standing Committees. The death of one of these, David Harrison, M. D., of Middletown, comes near the speaker, and to at least two other members of this Convention. He was our class-mate, a pleasant and a warm friend, for a period reaching near to one-third of a century. Another, Reynold Webb, M. D., of Madison, a few years our senior, an acquaintance of over thirty years. The last fifteen years residing in the same county, our intercourse has been frequent and pleasant. We always expected to meet him at our county meeting. If we were disappointed, it was an exception, not the rule. He was often a prominent member of this Convention. That noble form and familiar face we shall see no more. May we imitate all that is ennobling and elevating in their characters. The other brother, we remember, as one who has battled long and manfully with a fatal disease, to which he at last was obliged to yield.

We have to deal with an enemy that cannot, like the soldier on the battle field, be shot down, or driven off at the point of the bayonet,

and kept out by fortification. Unless we are spared to wear out by the infirmities of age, or cut off by the Providence of God, we are sure that the enemy we have been fighting all our lives, will at last triumph over us. Some disease will defy our skill, however eminent, the counsel of our brother, however wise. But we need not be troubled with this thought. The only perfect physician that has been on our earth, who could heal all manner of disease with a word, a look, or the touch, when he had accomplished his work, laid down his life; a life that no man had power to take, except it were given him from above. May we all, when in health, prepare to meet the last enemy, so that we may at last enter that world where we shall not hear the groans of the sick, the sighs of the broken hearted, or the ravings of the maniac; where all is holiness and happiness; whose inhabitants never say they are sick.

DISSERTATION,

BY BENJAMIN D. DEAN, M. D.

Mr. President, and Gentlemen of the State Medical Society:

ANOTHER year has quickly fled. Its brief, fleeting hours, whether laden with joy or sorrow, prosperity or adversity, are now past, mingling in eternity's ocean, with those beyond the flood. And thus, year after year has swiftly glided away, till now we are permitted by the record of our doings on this occasion, to acknowledge with due reverence the return of the sixty-fifth anniversary of our State Medical Society. Its origin being contemporaneous with the early struggles of our American Republic, and founded by those of our Profession, who acted well their part in establishing the free institutions we now enjoy, and possessing, as it does, many features, analogous to the return of our individual, or national birth-day, it should ever be held in honored remembrance by us, and our successors. Besides, it renders us important service in forming new friendships and renewing old ones. Its annual return cheers the mind with many happy reminiscences, by inclining us to review our professional associations of the past. In fact, it forms a milestone, a landmark in our career of mitigating the ills of man, which cluster so thickly around his whole pathway in this life. Therefore, let us all, whether present or absent, cherish it with renewed interest.

Without further detaining you with preliminaries, permit me to announce, that the "Medical Profession" will constitute the theme of my remarks on this occasion.

In my arrangement of this subject for your consideration, I propose to notice briefly its *History*, Present Position, and Prospective Attainments.

The history of all departments of art and science, is replete with interest to those who seek for knowledge, amid the mouldering ruins

and buried treasures of the past. Such in their researches are guided and allured backward down the course of time, by an occasional beacon-light whose somber radiance is in striking contrast with the darkness so visible along the steep declivity of receding centuries. And fortunate, indeed, is it, that such aid, however limited, is vouchsafed from generation to generation, and that the noblest results are sometimes secured through the influence of the humblest instrumentality. And, cheering is the fact, that here and there, through all the long and varied record of the past, some fragment of departing worth has been wrested from the otherwise universal and engulfing vortex of oblivion's night. And thus it is, that the condition of our race, past, present, and future, is inseparably united, each influencing in their turn, those that succeed them. And well it is, that the present is in continued dependence on the past, and the future on the present. For, were this bond of union severed, the wisdom and experience of past ages would prove of no practical service to us, nor would the events and acquirements of our times, influence the condition of countless generations that are sure to follow us during the lapse of a mysterious future.

The history of our Profession, during those remote ages, which constitute and environ the antedeluvian world, for a period of more than twenty centuries, is veiled in the darkest obscurity. The mind is beclouded in the wildest conjecture, in contemplating the position and attainments, that had been made in medical science, among that long list of kingdoms and empires, that arose and fell during those primeval ages, without leaving a single footprint to tell of their grandeur, dominion, and duration, ere they were entombed in one common deluge. And yet, that is not sufficient evidence for us to doubt its existence and success, through so long and obscure a period of the world's history. The chief wants and requirements for the comfort of man, have possessed the strongest analogy through all time. He has required food and raiment, repose and shelter in all ages, and in all climes. Endowed with the great elements of manhood, though clothed in the feebleness of infancy, he has arisen to power, and possession. And in all his prosperity or adversity, disease and death, in their numberless forms, at times stealthily, and again abruptly approaching their victims, have been no strangers to him. Indeed, it is reasonable for us to suppose, that he has ever struggled and labored to find some safe retreat from foes that so frequently and successfully attack the citadel of life. For, the law of self-preservation is, and probably ever has been, acknowledged a controling element in guiding man's individual action. Acting almost

by intuition from the deduction of such an hypothesis, we are forced to the conclusion, that the virtue of medicine has long been acknowledged by mankind. Indeed, I feel justified in claiming its origin and achievements to have been cotemporaneous and coextensive with the race of man, since the decree of "dust thou art," was written on his brow. Its commencement and early development must have been humble. A few simple remedies might have been used by accident, and the ordinary application of these, would very naturally lead to the examination of others whose properties and influence on disease, though briefly recorded, could not fail to increase the desire, and extend the facilities of similar and more thorough investigations. In this limited and inauspicious manner, without doubt, the germ of our Profession was developed, and sustained in its infancy. And as the decree was appointed unto all men, rich and poor, high and low, the noble and the ignoble, bond and free, it was undoubtedly cultivated with great zeal and unanimity, and its application and appreciation must have become universal at an early day. Among every nation, tribe, and people, some were to be found who were considered competent to practice the healing art. And, thus, as we look down through the long gloomy vista of centuries, we can discover the early foundation of that noble structure, the Medical Profession, which now encircles the globe—modest and unassuming in its primitive history, like the development of the oak from the acorn, whose numerous, deep, and far-reaching fibers firmly sustain the trunk, with its many outstretched arms proudly defying the storms of many generations.

We learn from history, in tracing the progress of events, and advancement of the race, from the earliest record which has come down to modern times, that to ancient Egypt belongs the enduring fame of being the earliest effectual patron of Medical Science. Here, in this land of Pyramids, whose lofty proportions and artistic grandeur can never be excelled, the arts and sciences were early and successfully cultivated. And in the development of all the elements for the comfort and improvement of the race, it is a proud fact for us to know, that our Profession was not left uncared for and forgotten. Although we can not instance the names of its most honored members, as in more recent periods, still, the fact which I have already affirmed, can not be successfully questioned. For we have the evidence of Herodotus on this point, a Grecian historian, who lived in the fifth century before the Christian era; and whom Cicero calls the Father of History. He says, "that the science of Medicine received so much attention, that in the practice of the art, the division of labor appears

to have been carried as far as in modern times. That one physician was confined to the study and management of one disease; that some attended to the diseases of the eyes, some took care of the teeth, while many attended to the cure of maladies which were less conspicuous."

Division of labor, to this extent, could not have been established and maintained among any other than a refined and highly civilized people. In the infancy of society, every man employs himself in all the departments of industry, which are requisite for the supply of his immediate wants. As society advances, the various arts and professions arise, and with the progress of refinement, these necessarily undergo various subdivisions; but we do not look for this division to be carried to its ultimate limits except in the most advanced stages of civilization. That the Medical Profession has ever maintained an honorable position among mankind, in all ages of the world, is made fully evident from the fact of its sacred associations, at the earliest period from which history or tradition reveals its success to us. In the primitive ages of Egyptian history, its members were robed with the prerogatives of the cloister. They administered aid and relief to the body as well as the soul. Indeed, the priests of those days were almost exclusively the representatives of science and learning in all their varied departments. They were the physicians, judges, astronomers, architects and rulers. At what date this state of things ceased to exist, it is quite impossible for us to determine. But it is very evident that a long time must have elapsed after the study and practice of medicine had been recognized a separate profession, before the wants of society demanded that variety of practitioners in its several departments, which existed, as we have already instanced, among the early Egyptians, more than forty centuries ago. But this people, with all their wealth and refinement, their attainments in the arts and sciences, their gorgeous temples and lofty pyramids, were not permitted to escape the changes and decay, which are so visibly written on terrestrial objects. Yes, the glory of this once favored land, whose widespread civilization and scientific institutions have influenced the progress of the race in subsequent ages, at length reached its culmination. And in the decline that soon followed, of the vital elements which constituted its greatness, the Medical Profession shared in the same general wreck. But the light that sustained and guided the interests of medical science then, was only dimmed, not extinguished. For in later times, and among another people, its rays, with stronger effulgence, were destined to illuminate the pathway of man.

In tracing the progress of our Profession, after ceasing to linger amid the ruins and buried treasures of a nation, which occupies so conspicuous a position in the annals of both sacred and profane history, the mind is very naturally directed by its success, to ancient Greece. Here the most reliable early record of Medical Science is traceable. And much of its later history is closely blended with the noble institutions of that classic land,—a land proudly distinguished for its poets and philosophers, its science and song, its orators, heroes, and statesmen,

> "Clime of the unforgotten brave!
> Whose land from plain to mountain-cave
> Was freedom's home, or glory's grave."

The history of this once powerful people, dates more than eighteen centuries anterior to the Christian Era. It is environed with thrilling events, and instructive lessons. Here literature, and the arts and sciences, were generally and successfully cultivated. Here the Medical Profession found a genial soil, and its members held no ordinary position in rank or power. In many instances they were the rulers of the people. And such was the degree of respect and reverence to which they attained as a class, that the memories of some of the most eminent among them, were constituted objects of worship after death. Thus it was with Esculapius, a surgeon of high attainments in his day, who received the homage of the profession to that extent, as to be honored and worshiped as the God of medicine; and whose name has been preserved through the darkness and mutation of centuries, during the rise and fall of Empires, and is now acknowledged with pride and reverence.

The honors and emoluments of the Profession, were, for several centuries, hereditary in certain distinguished families of the priesthood, who, by their devotion to the cultivation of medical science, acquired a brilliant name. One of these families, descending from Esculapius, far excelled all others in the enduring reputation its members won in the healing art. This one was that of which Hippocrates was a member. This renowned family maintained a prominent position for a period of three hundred years; and during that time furnished seven members of our Profession, who were highly honored, and without doubt justly entitled to the many flattering encomiums that have been bestowed on their memories. Undoubtedly, this is the only instance in the long and varied annals of medi-

cine, wherein one family has maintained equal prominence during three consecutive centuries. They were alike celebrated for their skill and their writings on medical subjects. Collectively they have the credit, as a family, of being the authors of seventy-two works.

The first of the family of whom history furnishes any record, flourished about five hundred years before the birth of Christ. And, as the sequel proved, the success of his labors, in a measure prepared the way for one who was destined to establish a new era in medicine, as the second of that name, grandson of the first, far excelled all others in brilliancy of mind and knowledge of disease. He was born in the Island of Cos, four hundred and sixty years previous to the Christian era. By his mother, he is classed as a descendant of Hercules, and according to the genealogy of those times, he is considered as the eighteenth lineal descendant from Esculapius.* Therefore his natural position in the world, aside from the acquirements to which he attained, gave additional character to the services which he rendered for the improvement of our Profession.

In his investigations of the science and practice of medicine, he saw much that had received the confidence and approbation of the earlier practitioners, to which he could not assent—much that had the semblance of truth, but which his acute, penetrating mind, decided to be error. He was fully competent for this important work. He possessed the true elements of character, necessary to constitute him a successful pioneer, and guide to our profession for all coming ages. His medical aphorisms, his discovery of the recuperative power of nature, as witnessed in the "vis medicatrix naturae," and his demonstration of the critical days, in acute diseases, wrought a mighty change in the theory and treatment of disease among his contemporaries; and have since exerted a wide and healthful influence in establishing the present basis of medical science.

Little was correctly known of the true anatomical structure of man, at the period of our profession just noticed. It is not difficult for us to account for this state of things, when we consider the general prejudice, and even superstitious notions entertained by the whole people, relative to dissecting the human body. A more rational view of this subject became prevalent, however, soon after the extensive conquests of Alexander. During his reign, and that of his immediate successors, the department of Anatomy received much prac-

* He could boast of a noble ancestry, dating back through the changes and struggles of more than twelve centuries.

tical attention. Its study was thoroughly cultivated at Alexandria under the administrative rule of the Ptolemys. Under the liberal patronage of the first of these sovereigns, it commanded the attention of the Profession, to that extent, as to secure a favorable estimate of its vital importance by the people generally. Consequently what would have been considered a high penal offence for the advancement of the true interests of medical science in Hippocrates' day, soon became the favored theme and study of the profession. Extremes followed close upon one another, as not unfrequently happen in more modern times. The subject was prosecuted with such zeal and minuteness, it is recorded, that Herophilus, a highly celebrated Anatomist who flourished about one hundred and fifty years after the birth of Hippocrates, dissected even living criminals.

The Romans, as a nation, when we consider the degree of prosperity they enjoyed, and the immense controlling influence they exerted over other nations for centuries, deserve little or no credit for the meagre service they rendered in advancing either the good reputation or usefulness of our profession. During the lapse of that long and eventful period, in which the martial prowess of this brave people swayed the imperial sceptre over the then known world, little advance was made in the knowledge or treatment of disease. The many elements of greatness, preëminently enjoyed by them, which should have been employed in developing man's highest temporal interests and happiness, were ruthlessly submerged and forgotten in the vortex of national ambition and aggrandizement. And yet it is far from my intention to claim that the wants of our profession were entirely overlooked during those ages that witnessed the fortunes and reverses of this gigantic Empire. For history has preserved a few names from the general wreck of this once favored nation of antiquity, which were identified with the interests of the medical profession. Among this list, the name of Ceslsus deserves, perhaps, a favorable consideration when compared with his cotemporaries. He was a voluminous writer, but did not possess an inventive, originative mind. He was, beyond question, a great compiler. If he excelled in any one department more than another, it was in the province of surgical subjects.

In this connection, were I to fail to notice, briefly, the claims to which the memory of Galen is entitled in this imperfect review of medical history, I should be sure not to accomplish fully my purpose on this occasion. Several centuries had rolled their innumerable changes over the scenes of earth, during the period that elapsed from

the death of Hippocrates the great, to the birth of Galen. This distinguished disciple of Esculapius was born in Asia Minor, in the year 131, after the appearance of that memorable star in the east, which so completely disturbed the equanimity of Herod, and all the Egyptian court. Possessing rare intellectual endowments, he would have been a valuable acquisition to any profession. At an early age, however, he manifested a strong attachment for the study of medicine, and soon became distinguished for the services he rendered in the improvement of medical science. He was a ripe scholar, a ready writer, and a profound reasoner. The great principles embraced in the theory of Hippocrates, he adopted and zealously advocated; and in the seven hundred and fifty essays on medical subjects, which are accredited to him, a leading object seemed to be, to give correct illustrations of the doctrine taught in the labors of him who will be honored as the father of medicine, so long as the history of our profession shall be preserved. Galen was naturally prompted to manifest more fervency in this direction, for the reason that a portion of his cotemporaries, at least, had not only misunderstood, but misrepresented those principles of the great philosopher in medicine, which he held in venerated remembrance. He attained the age allotted to man's earthly career, of three score years and ten; and during the greater portion of his life, his brilliant mind was closely occupied with the view of advancing the good reputation of the healing art. And safely it may be said, that he labored not in vain, for he won his way to a proud position, among the noblest votaries of science recorded in antiquity. Indeed, his success would appear commensurate with the aspirations of the loftiest ambition; for his opinions and elucidations of medical science bore almost undisputed sway over the medical profession during more than twelve centuries. This may, in a measure, be attributable to the general abandonment of scientific research, during that period of the world's history, known as the middle ages, when an almost universal gloom enveloped the mental world, obscuring the lights that guided man's true elevation and progress. The decline and fall of the Roman Empire directly preceded, if not the precursor, of that night of mental paralysis, which extended its blighting, enervating influence through centuries, including and entombing much of the accumulated wisdom and experience of our profession, in the same general wreck.

During the ten centuries next following this overthrow of empires and dynasties, a general abandonment of scientific research was visible among those who had been its most effective patrons. From this period to the dawn of the ninth century, the lights which had cheered

and guided the interests of our profession, became obscured in the thick moral darkness that rested so heavily on the progress of the race. Then it was, as we approach the noon of this moral night, the gloom apparently becoming more dense, that the feeble rays of a glimmering and unexpected light are visible in the distant horizon. As distance lessens, anxiety deepens in the mind, not unlke the solicitude of the mariner, who for the first time, without chart or compass, approaching an unknown and rock-bound coast, veers the course of his frail, tempest-tossed bark, in the direction of a new, though unexpected light. He cannot discover, while retreat may be possible, whether it be true or false, whether an omen of safety, or the fearful precursor of inextricable danger and despair. But buoyant with hope, and spirits undaunted, with his eye intently fixed on the distant light, he presses on through wind and storm, and the discovery of a continent rewarded his labors. Imagination may picture a similar scene, while the mind contemplates the doubts and uncertainties that cluster around the first demonstration which Arabia made, in the cultivation of medical science. Yes, the land and descendants of Ishmael, the wild man of the desert, the only nation in all antiquity that never submitted to the dictations of a foreign conqueror, always free, and thus will they ever continue, at length became the depository of letters, the oasis of our profession. And the Arabian physicians deserve the gratitude of posterity for the unwearied devotion they manifested, though humble the result, in its success and advancement.

On the revival of letters, Galen appeared to be held in nearly equal reverence with Aristotle. His reputation and position in the medical world, as the long moral and mental night which had hung like a mantle over the middle ages, disappeared, still received the homage of the profession. This state of things continued for a time. But at length the spell was broken. For a class of independent minds were deeply occupied in their researches for the elevation and improvement of our profession. Their labors led to important results. By the tests they instituted, new principles were developed. And perhaps no one rendered greater service in this direction than Bacon. Long will his noble influence be felt in behalf of a sound basis of rational philosophy in medicine. He justly condemned the spirit of superficial investigations, and vague speculations, which constituted a prominent feature in the labors of previous ages. He urged the paramount necessity of more careful attention to that branch of medical science known as morbid anatomy. A thorough knowledge of this department, in connection with the proper study and cultivation of

therapeutics, were considered by him of primitive importance. And in his opinion, the general diffusion of quackery among all classes, in his day, resulted directly from the feeble efforts made for the cultivation of these branches.

The writings of this wise man exerted, unquestionably, a powerful influence on the mental culture and professional attainments of Harvey and Sydenham, who manifested such partiality and even reverence for his system of philosophy in medicine.

Since his day, the several departments of our science have made rapid advancement in the line of improvements. The discovery and demonstration of the circulation of the blood, formed an important era, in the history of our profession. It quickened and increased the vitality of thought, and aroused the whole medical mind to a higher appreciation of more critical observation. The resources of chemistry have been called into requisition and have rendered important service. The labors and writings of Boerhaave, Haller, Hunter, and scores of others, are entitled to an honorable notice on this occasion; and if time and your patience would permit, a glance at their history might not be wholly devoid of interest or profit.

With the commencement of the present century are witnessed important developments of true progress in medical science. It forms a glorious era in the annals of medicine. Since passing its threshold, great influences have been steadily at work to establish a more reliable basis of the pathology and treatment of disease. And much has been accomplished. Nor could we have reasonably anticipated a less favorable result, when we duly consider the zeal and ability that have characterized the efforts of Laennec, Prout, Brodie, Chambers, Liebig, Marshall Hall, and a host of others, engaged in accomplishing this noble work. And in view of the high position which the medical profession occupies to-day, I feel safe in claiming that more has been done for the improvement of medical science during the last half century, than had been achieved in centuries previous.

Nor has the usefulness of our profession been limited to the treatment and cure of physical disease alone. It has soared on loftier wing to analyze and comprehend the subtle agencies that regulate and control the complicated elements of mind. As the mind is the noblest attribute in the full development of man, so do the study and successful treatment of its maladies, constitute the crowning glory and proudest mission of the medical profession.

Within a few years past, the medical treatment of the insane has received the most careful investigation at the hands of some of the

most gifted members of our profession. And now, there are in this country alone, some forty Hospitals or Retreats for the reception and amelioration of this unfortunate class of our race. According to the reports of some of the most successful of these institutions, nearly fifty per cent. of the number admitted, has been fully restored to soundness of mind. This fact alone speaks nobly in behalf of the evidence of improvement in our profession, during the first half of the nineteenth century. But this is not all. The labor and liberality of our profession in succoring and improving the many unfortunate fellow beings of our race, do not end here. For its humane impulses are still further warmly enlisted to secure the elevation and improvement of another class of mankind, who have been considered, till within a few years, as occupants of a sad, but irremediable condition. I refer to that class, which, bearing the external signet of their Creator, has existed in every age, but whose imbecility of intellect has assigned them a rank below the brute creation.

To be in a state of idiocy was to be in a position far too low to be cheered by even a single ray of hope. Thus for more than six thousand years has this earth of ours revolved around its common center, sustaining beings in human form, who were unconscious of life or any of its relations. But the honor was reserved for our times and age, to witness the progress of that science and philanthropy that would circle the globe in seeking to elevate man to his true dignity and position.

Thus, gentlemen, I have sketched imperfectly the history and achievements of the noblest science that ever occupied the attention of finite minds. We have witnessed some of the many obstacles it has overcome in attaining its present enviable position. No profession has been cultivated with greater enthusiasm and more constant devotion than medicine; and considering the degree of superstition, and number of false theories it has had to encounter in all ages, none has made greater proficiency. It has been sustained by many patrons justly numbered among the most brilliant minds which this earth has ever witnessed—names identified with man's true sphere and destiny, and whose memories will increase in grandeur and veneration as future generations shall review the record of the past.

And still the work is not all performed, nor are the noble aims of our profession fully accomplished. Although it now occupies, in the meridian of the nineteenth century, a commanding and honorable position, there are yet prouder heights to attain, and still nobler victories to be won. The whole profession should arouse itself to new

and greater efforts, if its future success would add to the value and renown of its past achievements.

False theories in medicine are of luxuriant growth, and have found zealous advocates in all ages. And though the fact is humiliating, it is painfully evident that our own times form no exception in this particular. Empiricism in the practice of medicine, as at present exhibited, holds a strong position and exerts a wide influence. It possesses a wonderful degree of adaptation in securing its object. It approaches its victims in a variety of shades and forms. Its advocates are numerous and presumptive, beckoned on by the unqualified assurance of possessing both fame and fortune as their reward. Neither is its field of conquest strictly confined to the lower strata of society, for at times it possesses the form and comeliness of true culture and refinement, and thereby secures the patronage of wealth and station. And it is to be feared even, that members of the regular faculty in medicine, holding fellowship with us and connection with this society, are to be found, who are not wholly free from its paralizing, fascinating influences.

That Empiricism is an evil of the first magnitude, in its ability to retard the true progress of medical science, I think all will readily admit. If such be the case, can no remedy be proposed of sufficient vitality to stay its further progress? Briefly, I would say, that if its enervating, devastating currents are ever checked in their blighting course, the work must be effected by the agency of the strongest union in our own ranks, united with a more thorough diffusion of a sound philosophy of medical science, among the masses of the people. The bickerings, jealousies, and unkind remarks which are sometimes witnessed among medical men, in their professional capacity, should cease. Each member should henceforth labor, as it were, for the good reputation of his associates, and thereby secure the return of more permanent reward for individual effort. When that period is welcomed and attained, then will the cheering and healthful influence of our noble science be more universally experienced in all lands. Then, and not till then, will our profession, united and prosperous, occupy that proud position which is commensurate with its worth.

BENJAMIN D. DEAN.

Norwich, May, 1857.

DISSERTATION,

Read before the Hartford County Medical Society, at its Annual Meeting, April 3, 1857.

BY P. M. HASTINGS, M. D., HARTFORD.

Remarkable changes have been gradually taking place in medical literature during the past half century. From being simply the repository of hypotheses, hastily formed to account for isolated phenomena, there is a marked tendency apparent, to neglect theoretical speculations, and to confine itself to the record of carefully observed and accurately noted facts, bearing directly upon the practice of medicine. A medical writer who speculates merely, can hardly secure readers, at the present day, and it seems impossible that any theory, however plausible and beautifully constructed, can ever again control the opinions of the medical world, as did those of Brown and Broussais,

The main causes of this improvement in medical literature, may be found in the growth of collateral branches of knowledge and their application to medical science. Chemistry, instead of being confined to the description and analysis of certain articles of the materia medica—as it was in the memory of many now living—has been applied to the elucidation of the vital functions, with wonderful results. She has not only placed on a reasonable basis, much that experience had taught us, as true, but has added vastly to our stock of knowledge. The knowledge of the composition of animal tissues, and the conditions of waste and supply, must ever exercise an important influence upon the treatment of disease. Without doubt, we now treat many diseases upon a more rational plan and more successfully, from an acquaintance with the principles or maxims derived from the principles of vital chemistry.

There is an increasing disposition among medical men of the present day, to base diagnosis of disease upon a sound pathology, and important practical results have already been realized. The conceptions entertained by physicians of the changes induced by disease, were often vague and unsatisfactory, and to a certain extent this still remains true. The inability of detecting, in many instances, any morbid change, leaves abundant room for conjecture, a mental condition always to be avoided. We are disposed to look for evidences of change of structure in all fatal cases of disease, and if these are too transient or too minute to be traced, we experience disappointment, and it may be lose confidence in the method of treatment pursued. Recent discoveries lead us to hope that this source of uncertainty will be partially, if not wholly removed, ere long.

By improved methods of investigation, we are daily becoming better acquainted with the more delicate tissues of the body, and the hitherto unseen changes induced by disease. We now mark evidence of change of structure, where a few years since, the most skillful pathologist failed. This advance in pathology, is due, in a great measure, to the introduction and improvement of the microscope.

It is to some of the discoveries and the practical value of the microscope, as a means of diagnosis in disease, that I wish to direct your attention for a few minutes to-day.

To one, whose ideas of the microscope were formed a quarter of a century since, it will appear strange, and perhaps very unreasonable, to claim any value for observations made by its instrumentality. But we should bear in mind at the outset of our inquiry, that the microscope of the present day is a very different instrument from that in use even twenty-five years since. After the brilliant discoveries of Ehrenberg and his cotemporaries, the microscope fell into undeserved disrepute, on account of errors of misinterpretation of less gifted observers. So great were its imperfections that a prolonged dispute arose in regard to the form of the blood corpuscles—one representing them as globular, another as flat discs, and still another as of irregular shape and size. So perfectly can these bodies be defined, by the modern microscope, that no difference of opinion need be entertained. This may be taken as an illustration of the deficiencies of the old microscope, and the consequent diversity of opinion, leading scientific men to regard it as a beautiful, but useless philosophical toy.

The attention of opticians, however, was directed to the improvement of this instrument, with so much success, that they now claim to have fulfilled all the conditions of the theory of a perfect microscope.

No difference of opinion need now be entertained in reference to what is seen, though the perfection of an instrument can not obviate or prevent the errors of interpretation which will always arise, when men of differently constituted minds view the same object.

Let us note a few instances, wherein our knowledge of the structure and functions of the animal economy has been increased by microscopic investigation. I have already alluded to the extended observations of the blood corpuscles, made at an early period in the history of the microscope. We now know that these play an important part in the history of animal life, as carriers of the oxygen and carbon, essential constituents of the body; that they are of different sizes in the various genera of animals; that they differ in form in the warm and cold blooded; and that they are accompanied by other and larger corpuscles, whose office is probably quite as important. But there is still much to be learned in regard to their origin and ultimate destination, furnishing a highly important and useful field of inquiry. The circulation of the blood can be clearly illustrated by the microscope, in many transparent parts of animals. The changes too, effected in this fluid, in its passage through the minute tissues, are known to take place, while contained in its appropriate vessels, through their parieties, and not by escape into the cellular substance. The vessels are so extremely minute in the lungs, (and this is probably true of all parts of the body) that a single series of blood corpuscles is allowed to pass at once, and the changes alluded to, are brought about by the principle of endosmose and exosmose. It is probable, that in no instance, do these minute bodies escape from their appropriate vessels, without a solution of continuity. This is known to be the case, in all the secerning and excreting glands.

Perhaps the most splendid, as well as the most important result of microscopic investigation, has been the establishment of the doctrine of the cellular formation of all organized products. It is now settled beyond question, that every part of an organized structure is made up of cells or their products. The cell is regarded as the type of organization, and possesses an individual life, which may enable it to maintain an independent existence and to continue its kind by reproducing individuals like itself to an indefinite extent; or its life may be subordinate to that of the structure to which it belongs, and of which it forms a component part. Starting from this point it is not difficult to trace the origin and mode of formation of most of the complex structures of the animal fabric. It is however, true, that some of the altered tissues of the higher organisms, compel us to have recourse to the

analogy furnished by those of the humble and more simple types of animals, to resolve them satisfactorily.

To my mind, the light thrown upon the difficult subject of generation, furnishes one of the most beautiful illustrations of the value of microscopic investigations of the animal functions. It has been determined, in every instance, where the life history of the more simple forms of animal and vegetable life has been studied, that however prolific they may be, multiplying themselves an hundred fold in a few hours, by the processes of gemmation or budding and by fissuration or self-division, there is always a true generative act performed at some period of their lives, thus preserving the species. This act, indeed, is absolutely essential, for a repetition of processes of gemmation and fissuration leads to wide departures from the original type and thus specific differences are obliterated—and further, it is known, that among the higher plants, a race soon becomes extinct where circumstances prevent the renewal of the generative act. In many of the simple and transparent organisms above referred to, often consisting of a collection of simple cells, brought together without much apparent order, a cell may be seen, whose office it is to receive the contents of another cell, and to become as a consequence of such union, an individual like its parent. There are various modes in which this union or conjugation is effected. Sometimes it takes place within the body of the parent where both are formed, or these two cells may meet after extrusion from the parent, or again the contents of these two may be received by a third cell, which becomes developed while the original cells perish. There can be no question that this process of conjugation, constitutes a true generative act, and is a type of the same function in the higher orders of organized beings. Not unfrequently, these cells, whether of animal or vegetable origin, are endowed with powers of locomotion; and the distinction between ova and sperm cells can generally be made out even among the most minute organisms. Sufficient evidence has been accumulated to establish the principle, that the essential part of the function of generation, consists in the union of two cells of different natures; a principle applicable alike to vegetable and animal propagation. In many of the higher orders of animals, we can not always trace the mode in which, nor the period at which this union is effected. Still we can not doubt its reality. In fishes and reptiles, such union of ova and sperm cells, takes place externally to the body of the parent, either at the moment of extrusion or soon after, and can readily be noted. In the mammalia, the organs of reproduction are

so complicated, that it becomes exceedingly difficult and in many instances impossible, to trace the process of fecundation, and we are obliged to be content with the analogy furnished by those of more simple structure, and infer that this union takes place. In these higher orders, we find indeed, the same elements, the ova, which requires the addition of the spermatic fluid for its development. In the sperm of all the higher animals, the microscope reveals the existence of almost innumerable little bodies endowed with active motive powers, which have received the designation of Spermatozoa, from the evidence of their distinct animality. Since locomotion has been proved to belong to certain conditions of vegetative life, these bodies are regarded as simply sperm cells, whose contact with the ova are absolutely essential to fecundation. It is difficult to conceive how this contact is brought about in man, since, as far as our knowledge extends, the conditions for the transmission of the sperm cell to the ovary, are in all respects unfavorable; but as fecundation is known to have taken place before the ova reaches the cavity of the uterus, we are forced to the conclusion that such transmission is effected. Still further, we know, that the presence of these sperm cells, is an absolute condition to impregnation, for where the spermatic fluid is destitute of the sperm cells, or where they exist in a mutilated state, the act can not be perfected. It is somewhat singular that the disparity of numbers, between the ova and sperm cells, holds good among the lower, as among the higher orders of animals and plants, the former being comparatively few in number, the latter being furnished almost without limit. After impregnation, the history of the new being forms a topic of very great interest, development being effected by the successive production of cells and their subsequent modifications.

It is not a little remarkable, that between the cell, that increases by self-division, and propagation by cells in all respects like itself, and which never reaches a higher point of development, and that endowed with power of growth to the highest form of animal existence, the microscope can detect no appreciable difference, both consisting of a membranous sac enclosing minute granules. Beyond this point our powers fail, and we must rest content to refer the changes witnessed to that mysterious principle we denominate life.

Let us note a few points of the practical bearing of the microscope. In cases of Medical Jurisprudence, that instrument has often been called into use, and its revelations have been received as evi-

dence of high character in courts of justice. In a recent case, which is fresh in the minds of all, it was used to determine the character of blood stains and aided much in narrowing the field of inquiry.

In practical investigations its value in determining the character of secretions of the genito-urinary organs, is generally acknowledged. We often have the ability of locating the particular point from which a discharge emanates, and the value of microscopic examination becomes at once apparent. The forms presented by the epithelial scales from various points of these organs are peculiar. Thus in Spermatorrhoea, the disease may be limited to the prostate gland to the vesiculae seminales, or to the testes, the epithelial scales accompanying the discharge will often enable us to fix upon the point most affected by disease. In Leucorrhoea, we can by similar means detect the existence of disease of the vagina, the os, the cervix and the fundus of the uterus. Abnormal urinary secretions are usually accompanied by epithelial scales indicating their origin, these bodies being of different forms in the urethea, neck of the bladder, the fundus and in the uriniferous tubes of the kidney. We detect the presence of sugar in the urine by the rapid development of confervoid vegetation, the existence and various forms of urinary calculi, abnormal quantity of inorganic salts, the presence of blood, pus and albumen and in many instances determine the point from which they originate. The various forms of organic disease of the kidney, can often be detected, portions of the new or altered structure being present in the urine.

In diseases of the respiratory organs, the microscope affords valuable aid in diagnosis. Not to mention the presence of blood, and pus in the excretions, the various forms of tubercular disease furnish characteristic microscopic appearances, which have been accurately described. The tubercular cell being an imperfectly developed pus cell, presenting peculiarities readily made apparent.

The recent discovery of a peculiar parasitic vegetation, termed *sarcina ventriculi*, in the stomach, has led to more satisfactory methods of treatment in some of the most obstinate diseases of this organ.

This instrument has been applied to the diagnosis of tumors, ever a matter of difficulty and debate, with the most experienced surgeons. It is claimed by one class of observers, that a true cancer cell can always be detected in malignant tumors ; its various forms have been accurately delineated, and great reliance has been, and is still, placed upon its discovery. Others, deny the existence of a distinctive cancer cell, and assert that here the microscope is wholly at fault.

From a somewhat careful examination of these opposing views, I am inclined to believe, that in very many cases of doubt, certainty can be attained by microscopic investigation. While in regard to other cases, our knowledge is as yet insufficient for the formation of positive opinions. But there is certainly reason for hoping that more extended observations will render clear, many, if not all the difficulties, attending the diagnosis of tumors. The conclusions arrived at by the earlier and more sanguine microscopists, have frequently been found erroneous by more careful observers, but since the introduction of improved instruments into all the principal hospitals of the civilized world, we may confidently expect valuable results. In regard to fatty and hydatid tumors, where doubt of their character exists, the microscope can readily be called in aid with satisfactory results, the matter drawn by an exploratory needle being sufficient for its purposes.

The microscope has farther shown that many of the most obstinate skin diseases, are due to the presence of minute animals, and such knowledge has led to certain methods of cure. In others, parasitic vegetations have been discovered, and experiment has indicated modes of eradication.

Not to multiply examples, the fact that the microscope is in daily use throughout all parts of the civilized world, as a means of diagnosis, and that new discoveries are constantly being announced, bearing upon the causes of disease, must be received as strong evidence of its value. While it does not usurp the place of the stethescope, or speculum, means furnished by modern science, we must claim for it a position of equal value. But unlike these instruments, it has a more extensive range, and can not fail of attaining a higher rank as a means of diagnosis.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES,

OF PHYSICIANS DYING DURING 1856-57.

DR. ELI HALL.

BY GURDON W. RUSSELL, M. D.

Eli Hall was born in East Hartford, on the eighth of October, 1785. He received his academical education in Lester, Massachusetts, and pursued his medical studies with his father Dr. Timothy Hall, a prominent practitioner of the time, Dr. Griswold of the same place, and with Dr. Cogswell of Hartford. He attended lectures at Hanover, New Hampshire, where he graduated, and after residing in East Hartford, about a year, removed to Blanford, Mass., where he continued until about 1839, when he returned to his native place.

In Blanford, as I learn, he was the principal practitioner, and did a large business, and though it was scattered and laborious, yet he enjoyed excellent health. He had eminently the confidence and respect of the community, who appreciated his good sense, and his quiet, unobtrusive manners, and parted with him with reluctance when he left for another field of labor.

When his father died he returned to East Hartford, and was soon in full business. Though never absent for a great length of time, yet he often made visits of pleasure to his different friends, or to his former residence in Massachusetts, and these excursions he enjoyed greatly, as affording him relaxation, and opportunities of social intercourse. The last year or two of his life he was troubled with enlargement of the prostate gland, and visited but few patients after October, 1855. He lingered through the winter and spring, able to take but little nourishment, and becoming extremely emaciated, until the eighth of June, 1856, when he died.

Dr. Hall was a man of remarkable gentleness, and equanimity of temper; of much moderation, he was inclined to take a favorable impression of men and things, joining in condemnation with reluctance, or seeking to soften it with excuses. Hence there was in him little of boldness of character, or of novelties in practice, and he was content to tread in those good old paths of his predecessors, whose lights, if they were less brilliant than some of those of modern days, perhaps effected quite as much for humanity. His common sense was excellent, and this, with his modesty, and retiring, unobtrusive disposition, formed the chief traits in his character. His medical knowledge was respectable, his discrimination of disease was good, and his treatment, though not heroic, was not expectant. Constituted as he was, he was not likely to err in any matters by going to either extreme, and was content if the patient did not die from any efforts of his own, as well as from a failure of them.

He was lovely in his family, affording his children the advantages of a good education, and was loved and respected by them. Though losing several by death, and watching them with anxiety during long sicknesses, he yet bore his afflictions with patience and resignation, as became him. His Christian character led him to receive with thankfulness the blessings bestowed upon him, to bear with resignation the ills of this life, and to endeavor to live in peace and charity with all men.

In the community in which he lived, he was loved and respected, as a kind physician and as a quiet man; with the physicians he stood well, enjoying the respect of his neighbors and acquaintances, and thus passed the last days of his life, well spent in the enjoyment of much happiness and the practice of good works. Social, benevolent in his feelings, kind and amiable in his manners, he passed through nearly seventy-three years, with quite as much of happiness and respect as falls to the lot of most men, and died leaving a pleasant memory behind him.

Hartford, April, 1857.

DR. SYLVESTER BULKLEY,

BY RUFUS W. GRISWOLD, M. D.

Sylvester Bulkley was the second son of Hosea Bulkley, of Rocky Hill, (formerly a part of Wethersfield,) in which place he was born in 1787. He was prepared for college by Rev. Calvin Chapin, D. D., of Rocky Hill, entered Yale in 1806, and graduated in 1810. The following winter he taught school in Wethersfield, meantime pursuing the study of medicine under the instruction of Dr. Daniel Fuller, of Rocky Hill. He then attended lectures in the medical department of Dartmouth College, Hanover, N. H., and received the degree of M. D., at that institution, in 1812. Dr. Bulkley first commenced the practice of his profession in Haddam, where he remained about eight years, when he disposed of his business to a Dr. Munger, and went to Chester. There he remained but a short time, when he returned to that part of Haddam known as Higganum, in professional connection with Dr. Munger. A more favorable offer presenting itself, Dr. B. located in Upper Middletown, (now Cromwell,) where he remained in successful practice for about twelve years. He then relinquished his business in that place, and after spending a few months in New York and its neighborhood, availing himself of the facilities for acquiring medical knowledge there afforded, he returned and settled in Berlin. In that town he continued until 1848, when Rocky Hill being left without a resident physician, by the removal of Dr. A. W. Barrows to Hartford, Dr. Bulkley returned to his native place. Here he continued in the practice of his profession until within a few days of his death, though age and its consequent infirmities restricted the amount of his business for the latter part of the time.

Dr. Bulkley was of a robust habit of body, and of vigorous constitution, and had good health, with the exception of attacks of rheumatism, which is hereditary in his family. In consequence, probably, of exposure and over exertion in visiting a patient, in the severe weather of the season, he was taken sick the twenty-seventh of January last, and died the first of February, in the seventieth year of his age. His disease was an acute inflammation of that portion of the peritoneum covering the liver, which probably extended to the liver itself. For the first three days of his illness, Dr. Bulkley expected to recover, and his physician thought him improving; but after this he passed

into a state of total insensibility, and sank rapidly. He was attended by Dr. A. S. Warner, of Wethersfield, and once seen by Dr. E. K. Hunt, of Hartford, and myself. Dr. B. was a member of the Hartford County Medical Society at the time of his decease, and had always felt a lively interest in all efforts for the promotion of the profession.

Dr. Bulkley was an honest man, upright and straightforward in his dealings, an active and excellent member of society, of high moral character and correct habits of life, enjoying the esteem of his neighbors and acquaintances, and a sincere professing Christian. He became a member of the Congregational Church in Berlin, during his residence in that town, and continued his connection there till his death, though an attendant on divine worship at Rocky Hill, after his removal thither.

As a physician, Dr. Bulkley enjoyed a liberal patronage in the several localities where he resided. He stood well in the estimation of his brethren of the medical profession, and was on particularly confidential terms and often in consultation over the sick-bed with the late Drs. Richard Warner, of Cromwell, and Archibald Welch, of Wethersfield. Naturally of a strong mind and independent character, he had little disposition to yield to the foolish whims of his patients, when he saw that yielding would be prejudicial to their recovery; and his refusal to gratify them in this respect, sometimes made enemies of those who should have had the greater regard for him for his firmness of purpose in their behalf. Considerations of policy, which often stand men in stead of sound medical knowledge; subterfuge in conversation, which is a cover for professional ignorance; suavity of manner, which hides defects in the practice of medicine,—upon these Dr. Bulkley did not altogether rely, to gain the esteem of the families in which he practiced. He expected to benefit his patients, rather by the potency of his remedies than by the grace of his bow; by the efficacy of his prescriptions, rather than by the ease of his conversation. Consequently, those who call a physician more for the purpose of having their diagnosis confirmed, and their views of the proper treatment supported by him, than for the sake of his medical advice and care, and who dislike him in proportion as he disagrees with their notions, often complained of Dr. B. when they would have done better to listen willingly to his counsel, and adhere trustingly to his orders. With quacks and quackery he had no patience, and quite as little with those who followed them. Of "steam doctors," "consumption doctors," and other like empyrics, he entertained a great abhorrence

and contempt; and with the various isms in medicine, that from time to time spring up to have a mushroom existence, he would have nothing to do. Correctly considering a proper medical education as indispensably necessary to the proper practice of the profession, and that the science must have a stable theory based upon known facts for its foundation, in order to be deserving confidence, Dr. Bulkley had no part with those who "take up" the trade without a thorough training in the various fundamental branches of the profession, and would have no counsel with interlopers, who had no other title to be called doctors than that bestowed by themselves alone.

Dr. Bulkley lived to a ripe old age, in the enjoyment of respect and esteem, performing his duties as a man and a physician, capably, faithfully and honestly, and was gathered to his fathers in peace, like a shock of wheat fully ripe for the harvest.

Rocky Hill, April 28, 1857.

SANITARY REPORT FROM HARTFORD,

BY GURDON W. RUSSELL, M. D.

The deaths in the town of Hartford, for the year 1856, were, including stillborn, 323, which, in a population of 26,000, would make about one in 80. Of these, 162 were males, and 161 were females; and occurring during the five first years of life, 140, of which 55 were males and 85 were females. There were deaths from consumption, 54, from Marasmus, 9; the deaths from the former amount to one in 6 of the whole number.

I have made no classification of the deaths which have occurred, except those of a zymatic character, termed endemic, epidemic or contagious. These amount in number to 70, being a little over one in $4\frac{1}{2}$, and are classified as follows:

Scarlet Fever,	4
Measles,	3
Hooping Cough,	7
Cholera,	
Cholera Infantum,	16
Croup,	11
Diarrhea,	11
Dysentery,	7
Erysipelas,	
Fever, Intermittent,	
" Remittent,	
" Typhus,	10
Influenza,	
Small-pox,	
Syphilis,	1
Thrush,	
Total,	70

The mortality of this class of diseases is usually considered a pretty correct indication of the sanitary condition of any place, and is favorable as regards Hartford. The number of deaths and the amount of sickness has been by no means large, and tends to confirm the impressions generally received, that the past year has been comparatively a healthy one.

In looking at the above table it will be perceived that there has been some deaths from diseases considered as contagious; thus, from *Scarlet Fever* there has been 4. This prevailed mostly during the latter part of the year; the cases were generally mild and few in number. In some instances, the anginose symptoms were troublesome, and were perhaps as well relieved by stimulating applications, internally or externally, or by the frequent use of emetics, as by other measures. These last remedies, operating upon the disease by their revulsive power, and cleansing the throat more effectually than can be done in any other manner, exercise a most beneficial influence, and but imitate that spontaneous vomiting which so often occurs at the commencement or during the progress of the disease.

Of *Measles* there has been 3 deaths. This disease commenced during the latter period of the year, and was for some weeks mostly confined to the northern part of the town. Speaking of it, as continuing to the present time, it has been very extensive in its character, and yet not of a very bad type. Most of the deaths which have occurred have been from pneumonia, either during the progress, or subsequent to the original disease. Aside from this special complication, most cases have done well upon mild remedies. I can not omit to notice here the unfavorable influence manifested by the early use of stimulating diaphoretics, or active cathartics. Under the impression that the eruption ought, upon the accession of the disease, immediately to make its appearance, the friends have been apt to drench the patients with milk punch, or warm drinks of various kinds, hoping to force out the eruption, not knowing that the disease must run a certain progress before this will show itself, and by this active interference have often so increased the inflammatory state of the system, that some organ has become especially affected; or else have purged violently, and thus bringing on a diarrhea, or lowering the tone of the body by a violent shock, have rendered the eruption tardy in its appearance, and the disease imperfectly developed. In these instances, complications, though not always occurring, may be looked for. The disease is one specially of the skin, though attended with constitutional symptoms,

and if it can be made to spend its violence externally, it is at the relief of the internal organs, and with not much danger to the patient.

Several well authenticated cases of Measles, occurring for the second time, have been witnessed. This is nothing new to the profession, but should be improved by us with the public, in showing that this disease may occur more than once.

Hooping Cough prevailed during the latter half of the year, and there were eleven deaths reported from this cause.

These three diseases, measles, scarlatina and hooping cough, were present during the latter part of the year, and were followed in time by variola, showing that epidemics are very apt to follow or accompany one another, particularly those affecting the skin.

No deaths are reported as having occurred from small-pox, though it made its appearance first, sometime in December, and continues to the present time, being the most extensive epidemic of this character which has prevailed here for many years.

In connection with this subject, I trust that I may be allowed to make some remarks upon *Vaccination.* I am afraid that there is an increasing impression with the public against the utility of this operation, for parents are not only neglectful in seeing that it is done for their children, but are also found to protest against it, on the grounds of its inefficacy, as well as from the fear of disease being communicated by it. As regards its inefficacy, there are no grounds for believing it, if we will examine the whole subject with care, and do not expect too much from it. Jenner himself found that some of his patients who had been vaccinated, were seized with a mild disease similar to variola, when exposed to it, and began to distrust its perfect protective power, thinking that too much might have been claimed for it at the first. Now, this is probably the true view to take of it; too much has been claimed for it; that it is not an absolute protection from variola, as our experience shows us that some, although thoroughly vaccinated, will have a modified but not dangerous form of this disease. Let us therefore be content with what we can gain, not claiming more for this invaluable discovery than the facts will warrant, nor holding out to the public any uncertain expectations, but state it just as it is, and rejoice that by it mortality has been much diminished, or that if a modified form of the disease does occur, it is shorn of much of its terrors.

But there is a more serious view of this subject, which immediately concerns ourselves. Do we always perform this operation, holding in view the magnitude of its importance, the necessity of

doing it well, and the propriety of witnessing the progress of the vaccine vesicle during its different stages. I am afraid not; but that it may be too hurriedly performed, or looked after but once, in its commencing stages, when a careless eye might fail to discriminate between a true and spurious vesicle. We ought, therefore, I contend, to see it at different times during its continuance, to ascertain whether there are constitutional symptoms or not, and to see if the operation has made not a sore alone, but a sore of a specific character, which has its rise, progress and decline, duly marked and noted, which are special and peculiar attributes of this disease, as much so as are the special and peculiar symptoms of scarlatina, measles, or typhus peculiar to these diseases. For my own part, I entertain the opinion that the vaccine disease is not a whit modified or changed from what it was in the time of Jenner, and that its protection, if properly produced, is just as perfect as it was then, though I admit that it does not perform all that its advocates then claimed for it, or that may have been claimed for it in later years. There is no more reason to suppose that vaccine has changed, than that rubeola itself has changed, or scarlatina, or variola; the distinctive characters which mark these diseases are the same now as ever, and will be transmitted the same through generations to come: some of the concomitant peculiarities, or the attendant type may be modified; one epidemic may be more malignant than another, or some symptom may exist at one time which is hardly apparent at another, but the disease itself is unchanged. Variola continues to be variola, and scarlatina continues to be scarlatina; the essential points are the same.

I may state in connection with this, that the propriety of using the scab or crust for vaccination, instead of the lymph taken about the sixth or seventh day, may well be doubted: not but that a good crust, consisting of hardened lymph, will not equally communicate the disease, but the difficulties and uncertainty of obtaining a crust consisting of lymph alone, becomes an objection; frequently the vesicle is broken, and the lymph nearly discharged, or in consequence of inflammation the crust consists in part of dried purulent or semi-purulent matter which may produce a sore, but not always a vaccine vesicle, and which, if carefully examined on the fifth day, may be thought to be a genuine one.

And here I may be allowed to suggest the propriety of testing all cases of primary vaccination; this would afford a sure and perfect guarantee of the protection given by the first. It is attended, I admit, with some trouble, but if the fee is not already remunerative, it

should be made so. I know now that it is already the poorest business which is done, and hence the complaint which physicians make in regard to it, and the neglect which it meets often at their hands. But the public should be informed of the importance of it, and of the necessity of witnessing it during its different stages, and would doubtless here as in other cases, be willing to pay a fee which should be sufficiently satisfactory. Why, our very conduct shows it to be a trifling thing: it is done in a moment, and we are off, perhaps never see the patient again, perhaps see him at an uncertain or indefinite period.

The necessity of viewing the patient after *re*vaccination is, I contend, also apparent; if this operation has any importance or efficacy attached to it, it is worth doing well, and looking after when it is done, and this brings me to the subject of *revaccination*, or testing the first operation; but as this opens a broad field, and this paper is getting far beyond the length which I intended, I will make now but a few remarks. That it is a necessary operation, protecting the system already wholly or partially exposed, is, I believe, generally admitted, though still denied by some of the profession. I confess I have rarely seen a perfect vescicle in a secondary vaccination, when there was already a well defined, punctated scar from the first. I have occasionally seen near approaches to it, varying however, in the constitutional symptoms, in the appearance of the areola, and of the sore, in the time of its continuance and of the attendant inflammation: some of the profession, I know, are reported to have seen it frequently, but I have not been so fortunate; the nearest approach to it which I have seen this season was in a lady of at least sixty years of age, who had been inoculated with variolous matter in Scotland when a child.

Of course the crust that is formed during these revaccinations, should never be used for the purpose of producing the vaccine disease; it might occasionally answer for the purpose, and of course it would do so when it had formed a genuine vescicle, but these instances are so rare that it is safe to lay it down as a rule that it should never be used.

I am satisfied that variola is upon the increase, and for years to come will continue to increase, until public necessity shall compel a resort to careful, general, and repeated vaccination; the time may not yet have arrived, when by public authority every child shall be vaccinated before it is three months of age, but when this foul disease shall have become more common, every one perceiving the increase of it, then may we expect such a consummation, and that the law will not

be a dead letter. I have heard in a number of instances where the crust formed after a revaccination in an adult, has been used for the purpose of producing the vaccine disease in infants, by unprofessional persons. Although a sore may have been made, it is by no means sure that it will afford protection against variola, where the patient is exposed to it, and this I suspect is the explanation of some of the cases which have occurred in this town during the present epidemic.

There is an interesting portion of this subject, itself alone sufficient for a lengthy dissertation, viz.: *upon the communicability of disease by vaccination;* this demands careful and thorough investigation, both to satisfy ourselves, and quiet the public feeling, which is strongly inclined to believe in its truth. Without denying the possibility of it, I am still somewhat skeptical as to its frequent occurrence, though cutaneous disease may occur after its performance, and be the indirect result of it, as vaccination often developes any tendency to disease of the skin, which may be present in the system. I do not now recall but one instance in which I have witnessed any cutaneous eruption to have followed vaccination this season; this was eczematous in its character, and appeared about the tenth or twelfth day of the operation, in an eruption behind the ears and upon the lower part of the scalp; the child was teething at the time, which was enough in my opinion to account for it; and that it was owing to this, and not the matter, was shown by its being used in quite a number of instances, before and afterwards, without any such result being produced. If physicians would make a careful record of all such cases that come under their notice, a mass of information would be obtained, which would enable us to dispel many of the illusions of the public.

Of course the popular notion that vaccination should be done at every certain and defined period of one's life, is altogether wrong; there can, with reason, be no such course marked out; but if the operation was done during infancy, it is certainly proper that it should be tested after the subject has grown up. If any thing further than this is done, it must be as much to satisfy the wishes and quiet the fears of the timid, as to comply with any rule indicated by reason or experience.

In regard to the sanitary measures of the town, I may say that they are improving; sewers are being constantly built, and although expensive, are of vast importance. The free and liberal use of the Connecticut river water is increasing, and our citizens are beginning to appreciate the great importance of its introduction. Its use for domestic purposes is extending, as it will for bathing, unless men are

deterred from it by the expensive apparatus, or the notion sometimes inculcated that it is an operation necessary to be performed for the whole body every day.. There is an immense amount of humbug connected by enthusiasts, with this matter of bathing, that will be exploded by and by, when men come to see that they may use water rationally, without converting themselves into amphibious animals.

HARTFORD, APRIL, 1857.

Dr. Warner, of *Wethersfield*, reports "a year of remarkable health." Hooping cough prevailed, but to no great extent.

Dr. Griswold, of *Rocky Hill*, reports that "the amount of sickness was much less than usual, and the number of deaths smaller than before in many years. There were no epidemics of any kind, until the latter part of the year, when measles began to prevail extensively, and have continued into the present year. We had a few cases of scarlet fever, but the disease was of a mild character and was easily managed."